

The Middlebury Campus

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MICHAEL BORENSTEIN AND VAN BARTH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Midd Embroiled in Controversy Over Right-Wing Polish Politician

Signs advertise Ryszard Legutko's visit to Middlebury (above), whose comments about homosexuality inspired students to protest the talk. On Monday night, students made posters in preparation in Chellis House (below). The Campus was sent to print on Tuesday, but you can follow our preview and continued coverage of the talk and protest coverage online at go/campus.

SGA and Community Council to Hold Elections Thursday

Get to know the four candidates and their platforms

By PORTER BOWMAN
SGA Correspondent

SGA President

As the weather on campus is warming, Student Government Association (SGA) elections are heating up.

This week, the Middlebury student body will elect a new SGA president for the 2019-2020 academic year. The position involves directly overseeing the SGA Cabinet and Senate and supporting the work of 11 Cabinet committees and five Senate committees. The President is viewed as the de facto leader of the entire student body.

Three candidates are running for the position this election cycle, and The Campus spoke with each of them to get a sense of their qualifications, priorities and visions for the SGA.

John Gosselin '20

Winchester, MA native Gosselin has served in several leadership roles on campus throughout his time at Middlebury, including SGA Atwater senator. He is currently treasurer of the Tavern social house and Community Council co-chair. His campaign website can be accessed at go/voteforjohn.

"I feel as though I'm an effective administrator who doesn't respond with strong emotions," Gosselin told The Campus. "This calm temperament will help with any possible hostilities that may arise next year."

While serving with the Community Council, Gosselin was the leading student voice on the steering committee for the Residential Life Report and has been involved in the process for over two years. As SGA president, Gosselin hopes to implement the first steps of the report, and believes that having a president who understands its importance is critical as the steering committee begins to tackle long term projects like renovating Battell and building a new student center.

Gosselin also wants to improve social life and late-night non-alcoholic programming. To this end, he plans to work with different organizations on campus to provide higher quality non-alcoholic programming and work with the Vermont Department of Liquor Control and the college's general counsel to "relax policies which currently restrict many events with alcohol."

On Community Council, Gosselin strove to support students of color and worked to approve PALANA as a new social house. He said the group has and will continue to do "a phenomenal job at providing a diversity-oriented space on campus."

Gosselin also wants to find more ways to support students over breaks. He feels the lack of resources provided to students, especially in the dining halls, prevent students from "having a full and equal Middlebury experience." He says that he expects the SGA to

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Reporter on ISIS Beat Discusses 'Speaking to the Enemy'

By CAROLINE KAPP
News Editor

Rukmini Callimachi has built a career out of talking to terrorists.

Callimachi joined the New York Times in March 2014 as a foreign correspondent covering Al-Qaeda and ISIS. WIRED magazine called her "arguably the best reporter on the most important beat in the world." She is a four-time Pulitzer Prize finalist as of Tuesday, when her written work The ISIS Files and podcast Caliphate earned her another Pulitzer nomination.

During her talk in Wilson Hall last Thursday, Callimachi talked with members of the Middlebury community about creating Caliphate, her career as a journalist and the problematic approaches of the media and the government in addressing terrorism.

Callimachi began her career in as a foreign journalist working in India. She later went on to cover a 20-country beat in Africa and became the West African Bureau Chief for the Associated Press.

In her work covering Al Qaeda and ISIS, Callimachi has become acutely aware of the wealth of misinformation that circulates about terrorist organizations. She explained that terrorism is the only beat for which journalists only talk to one side of the issue.

Callimachi is determined to change this.

"I firmly believe in speaking to the enemy, in listening to them, which is different than believing them, in trying to understand them, which is different than giving them a platform, and I do this in the interest of reporting the

most accurate version of events I can," she said during her talk.

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"The experience of being a refugee is the experience of being an other," she said. Callimachi and her mother immigrated to the United States when she was ten. "That stain of otherness never fully left me," she said.

Callimachi believes that being a refugee has impelled her to focus her career on reporting stories about outsiders. She sees a piece of herself in these people and thinks this makes it easier to talk with them.

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Since she started at The Times in 2014, she has interviewed more than 50 terrorists. "To me, these people are

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MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The new program is currently in its first evaluation phase.

Parton Looks to Upgrade Mental Health Services this Fall

By ELAINE VELIE
Editor-at-Large

Parton Center for Health and Wellness will make changes to its mental health offerings beginning this fall, after joining a national program earlier this year which helps schools improve their suicide prevention services as well as support for substance abuse and other mental health issues.

The program will be led by the

JED Foundation, a public health organization that seeks to improve access to mental health services. The program at Middlebury will take four years to fully implement and will cost \$22,000. An anonymous donor is covering the cost in full.

The donor offered the funding to three schools in Vermont. "We immediately raised our hand," said Director of Health and Counseling Services Gus Jordan. Other schools that have implemented the JED program include Connecticut College, Hamilton and the University of Vermont.

Parton is currently in its first year of the program, which consists of "evaluation." This phase is set to conclude by the end of May. The next two years will consist of "implementation," and the final year will consist of another "evaluation."

The first evaluation phase included a mental health survey sent to students this fall.

There is more demand now than ever before for mental health services. The number of students seeking counseling has increased every year, according to Jordan. In response, in 25 years, the number of counselors has increased five-fold. There are now seven counselors on staff and three interns, as opposed to two counselors in 1995. Parton now holds over 3,600 counseling sessions per year, and over 26% of the student body has interacted directly with a counselor in the last

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CHEM PROFESSOR NOW ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By NICK GARBER
Managing Editor

Professor Jeff Byers is taking an immediate leave of absence from his teaching duties for the rest of the semester, the Chemistry department announced in an email to Byers' students last Wednesday afternoon, April 10, following campus-wide outcry over an offensive question he posed on a midterm exam last month.

The email, from department chair Bob Cluss, promised that the department would update students "by the end of this week" on how their courses will be completed in the remaining four weeks of the semester. Professors have since been assigned to Byers' old classes.

The question, part of an exam for the Chemistry 103 course, asked students to calculate "a lethal dose" of the gas "Nazi Germany used to horrific ends in the gas chambers during The Holocaust." Although students in the class reported feeling uncomfortable at the time, it was not brought to public attention until Friday, April 5 through an article in the student-run satirical newspaper The Local Noodle.

In a separate email sent to the college community later that Wednesday afternoon and also posted to the college's website, president Laurie L. Patton called Byers' question an "inexplicable failure of judgment," which "trivializes one of the most horrific events in world history, violates core institutional values, and simply has no place on our campus." The message includes a link to a written apology by Byers, in which he committed to "spend the coming months reflecting deeply on the choices I have made."

Patton's message also revealed that an inquiry into Byers' past exams uncovered "a second objectionable question," which made a gratuitous reference to the Ku Klux Klan.



ZEKE HODKIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Rukmini Callimachi (right) was just nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for her podcast, Caliphate (left). It is her fourth time as a finalist.

LOCAL



A new coffee shop to grace Seymour St.
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A spring guide to local trails
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ARTS & ACADEMICS



Wild Middlebury Project engages with nature
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SPORTS



Women's lacrosse continues winning streak
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Ski patrol keeps Snow Bowl running
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SGA and Community Council Candidates Bring Youth and Advocacy to This Year's Races

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either work with administration or prioritize the support of such efforts with SGA funds.

Varsha Vijayakumar '20

Vijayakumar, from Harrington Park, New Jersey, is a current junior senator with the SGA. She sees SGA president as a role that supports students who are already passionate about particular causes around campus. Vijayakumar made it clear that her platform does not only belong to her, but to the numerous students from whom she's received input and support. Her experience with the Institutional Diversity Committee and the Senate have shown her the immense power the SGA can have for students. "I want to harness the passion of students," she said. "Their power is unstoppable."

Vijayakumar's leadership on campus is not limited to the SGA. She serves as the president of Midd Masti, has led a MALT trip to Miami about sex trafficking and has served as a JusTalks facilitator. Vijayakumar feels deeply connected with many communities and spaces around campus through her extra-curricular involvement and hopes to bring these connections to her role as president. Her experience with Midd Masti, for instance, allowed her to "fall in love with her culture in a way that's loving and affirming" and hopes that the SGA can empower groups to provide those and other opportunities to even more students.

Her campaign website, go/varsha, represents a platform created by students and for students. She stresses that her goal is not to push a certain agenda but to support the work and goals of student-centered causes. She hopes to work with groups on campus to tackle issues within health and wellness, social spaces and social life, inclusivity, access to resources, and financial aid and employment. She has identified these areas as key priorities for an SGA under her leadership and is excited by the upward trend in student involvement with the SGA in recent years. She pointed to divestment and to-go boxes as examples of encouraging signs of progress. Vijayakumar hopes to find ways to streamline the SGA to be more representative and more efficient. "Student engagement with SGA is the equivalent to our success," she said.

Joel Machado '22

Machado, a Posse Scholar from New York City, is encouraged by what underclassmen can bring to the SGA. Machado noted that first-years "are generally the most engaged and most involved on campus, and generally have the most turnout in elections." Machado, who is involved with First@Midd and Distinguished Men of Color (DMC), pointed to his lack of experience with SGA as "not the end all be all."

"I want to bring new energy to the SGA, whereas the other two candidates lack the lens of being on the outside looking in," he said. He hopes that he can bring his leadership skills to the role by using first-year enthusiasm to represent the entire student body.

After identifying several institutional issues at Middlebury, such as rape culture and new Title IX policies, Machado first decided

to speak out through the Spencer Prize, a first-year speaking competition. Machado then submitted his speech to The Campus as an opinion piece, noting that "it wasn't worth it to wait" to act. "I wanted to vocalize problems I saw even in my first semester here on campus," Machado said. He tried to use these moments as a form of protest and hopes his candidacy can shed more light on the issues he hopes to focus on while in office.

Machado's platform, which can be found on his website at go/ourSGA, attempts to answer four questions. First, who gets to be a Midd Kid? Here, Machado wants to focus on issues surrounding diversity and creating opportunities for marginalized groups on campus in and out of the classroom. Second, how can we improve life at Middlebury? He hopes to enact change in such areas as registration, opening up study abroad opportunities in winter term and funding individual students to host their own parties and events on campus. Third, how should the SGA operate? Machado feels as though the SGA has too much bureaucracy and hopes to simplify the body to make it more efficient. He feels it should have "less of an organized structure and be more informal and conversational." Fourth, what can we do for our future? Machado looks to work on long term efforts like enforcing Energy2028, eliminating rape culture on campus and collaborating on a new commons system.

Community Council Co-Chair

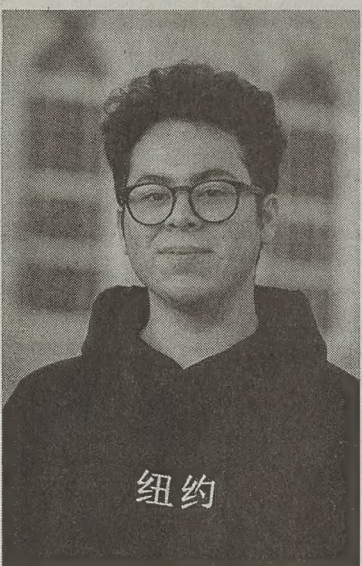
The race for co-chair of Community Council, a position shared with Dean of Students Baishkahi Taylor tasked with leading discussions and action on all non-academic issues on campus, will be uncontested this year. The Campus spoke with the sole candidate.

Roni Lezama '22

Lezama, a Posse Scholar from New York City, feels that the Community Council is a unique body that brings together students, faculty, and staff for important discussions about life at Middlebury. Lezama, who currently serves on the SGA's Institutional Diversity Committee and recently won the Spencer Prize in Oratory, wants to embrace the power of the community and empower others to voice their opinions in an open, respectful forum of ideas.

"I want to work towards a Middlebury that's for the community and empowers community members and especially those of marginalized identities to speak up and voice their opinions," he said.

Lezama doesn't want to set an agenda because Community Council is the "most important time to hear what other people have to say." However, he wants to hear from the community on additional programs beyond Green Dot to fight back against sexual assault as well as focusing on issues like accessibility to a Community Council that should be "a place of openness." In general, Lezama wants to focus on issues that affect all facets of the community. He gave registration as an example of an issue that gives headaches to everyone involved. He hopes that Community Council discussions and respectful debates can bring progress and meaningful solutions to problems like these in the next year.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/
THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

From top to bottom: Student Government Association Presidential candidates John Gosselin '20, Joel Machado '22, Varsha Vijayakumar '20 and Community Council Co-Chair-elect Roni Lezama '22

Expert Panel Talks 'Climate Grief' and Environmental Action

By NICOLE POLLACK
Senior Writer

Last fall, days after Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Dan Suarez gave a talk branding climate change the impending end of the world, Kyle Freiler '19 walked into Suarez's office in a panic. He was experiencing what the American Psychological Association now recognizes as climate grief: the shock, hopelessness and despair that result from worsening effects of climate change. Freiler called it an awakening.

"I think what Kyle is going through is akin to a microcosm of what a lot of people are going through," Suarez said. "How do you find your way in this world? What do you do? How do you live in it?"

While Freiler's climate awakening was beginning, he and Charlotte Massey '19 were in the process of arranging speakers for a panel sponsored by the Symposium Philosophy Club and the Debate Society. Inspired by his awakening, Freiler wanted to host a panel discussion with leading environmental thinkers. Suarez suggested Rupert Read, an activist, environmental think tank leader and member of England's Green Party, as one panelist. Bill McKibben, co-founder of 350.org and Middlebury's Schumann Distinguished Scholar, was an obvious choice. Suarez and Keiler reached out to several contributors to the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report before selecting Kim Cobb, professor of earth and atmospheric sciences at Georgia Tech and the lead coauthor of the 2018 IPCC report.

Freiler told The Campus that he asked Suarez to moderate because of his role in bringing in panelists and because "he's young, he's in the same boat as us, and he has a really clear-eyed look at the problem."

Suarez moderated the resulting panel, "Climate Change: What Should I Do About It? How Can I Live With It?" in Wilson Hall last Monday. Read and McKibben appeared in person. Cobb spoke via videoconference, because she adheres to a strict personal carbon budget that limits her ability to fly.

Middlebury President Laurie L. Patton introduced the panel, drawing on the words of former French president François Hollande: "The time is past when humankind thought it could selfishly draw on exhaustible resources. We know now the world is not a commodity."

In his own opening remarks, Suarez said, "It wouldn't be quite right to say that it is my pleasure, exactly, to be with you here today, although it is, given the circumstances that have brought us together. And specifically the bewildering and preposterously grave seriousness that defines our subject matter."

The panel aimed to confront the discomfort, anger, heartbreak and fear felt by many in the face of climate change, and to investigate the perennial question: what is to be done? By forcing reevaluations through exploration of justice and injustice, the panelists urged attendees to reject complacency — as Suarez said, "finally facing what needs to be faced."

Read was the first of the panelists to give his opening statement. Stepping to the podium as Suarez returned to his seat, he said, "Your so-called leaders have failed you. Your parents, I'm sure, mean well, but they and their generation have failed you. Your teachers, despite their best intentions, have failed you. And we, despite our best endeavors, even we have failed you. We've all failed you because we are sending you, naked and unpre-

pared, into a deteriorating future."

He went on to say that the Paris Agreement was "a voluntary agreement to do far too little to stop catastrophic climate change from occurring," that climate-related agricultural breakdown will end the lives of some audience members long before rising sea levels inundate Boston and New York, and that the older generation has failed younger ones through complacency.

Love, Read said, caring enough about life, wilderness, future generations and encouraging one another to really show up to the climate fight, are the only things that can propel humanity through this.

Cobb opened by talking about her own wake-up call. For most of her career as a climate scientist, she thought climate change was someone else's problem to fix, while her own role was to publish papers and raise her four children. That changed in 2017, when, over just five months, she witnessed the death of 90 percent of the corals at her Pacific research site, Christmas Island, which she described as an "absolute tropical paradise." Soon after, she started biking to work and created her carbon budget.

"I know that the young people today will fix this," Cobb said. "I have absolutely all the confidence in you guys. And it's my job to try to give you the best head start that I possibly can."

McKibben tied it all back to the iron law of climate change: "The less you did to cause it, the more and more quickly you suffer its effects."

"How do we do this better?" Suarez asked, referring to the work of educators in guiding students in the face of climate change.

Read said that climate grief can be liberating. It eliminates the expectation of a predictable future, freeing people from the assumption that comfort is to be expected. It offers people the chance to be part of the generation that tries to save the future.

"In my experience," McKibben said, "the great antidote to angst about all this is to be engaged in the fight."

The discussion moved to the need for a massive change in consciousness related to climate change. Cobb said there has already been a rapid shift in public opinion in recent years. Read urged everyone to keep warning people, to take them into threatened nature, and to spread the messages of the panel.

Read said that the degree of transformation necessary to combat climate change is roughly equivalent to the human revolution — when humans first evolved. And it needs to happen fast: unless people make a serious start at turning things around in the next eighteen months, it will be impossible to complete that task within the eleven years before the consequences of climate change become even more disastrous.

"The polling in this country took its most decisive shift in the week or two after the fires in California," McKibben said, describing the shift in people's understanding of what is natural and normal and obvious. "Watching a town literally called Paradise literally turn into hell in half an hour had a sobering effect on a lot of people."

"This is the world we now live in, whether folks choose to accept it or not," Suarez told The Campus. He emphasized that in this exceptional moment of urgency, as climate change finally catches up with those who have been most responsible and most insulated from its effects, the issue of privilege, and the influences of responsibility and complicity, should not be overlooked.

RUKMINI CALLIMACHI TRACKS HER EXPERIENCE FROM REFUGEE TO RENOWNED REPORTER

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"There is no greater outsider than the people we consider terrorists," she said.

Since she started at The Times in 2014, she has interviewed more than 50 terrorists. "To me, these people are like a window into this unseen world," she said.

Callimachi began her talk the same way she begins her 10-episode podcast, with a description of a visit to a Canadian hotel. She was responding to a tip that a former ISIS militant, Abu Huzayfah (a pseudonym), had returned to Canada from Syria. She described this tip as "a tantalizing opportunity." Only a few hundred North Americans had made it to Syria. Of those, many were killed; only a few are able to return home and most of those who have re-

turned are in jail.

During his interview with Callimachi, Huzayfah admitted to murdering two people at the command of ISIS. If this man was being honest, Callimachi and her team had "met alone, late at night, in an isolated hotel with a murderer," she explained.

Later in her talk, Callimachi played a clip from the podcast where Huzayfah describes killing a man. "I just instantly thought I'm a psycho killer now," he said, "what the hell did I just do?"

Callimachi instructed audience members to listen not only to what he said, but how he said it: the rapidity of his breathing, his frequent swallowing. Huzayfah's emotional distress is clear in his voice.

She cited this as one of the benefits of working with podcasts. "It allows you to live in the gray," she said. "There's emotional information that's encoded in people's voices." Print news doesn't allow a reporter convey emotion with the same intensity.

Through her work, Callimachi has been able to dispel misunderstandings about Al Qaeda and ISIS. For example, while the United States government and media frequently referred to the Islamic State as the "so-called" Islamic State, Callimachi learned that, while it was not internationally recognized, ISIS was a

complex and developed organization whose infrastructure mirrored that of an established state.

"Our tendency with the Islamic State has been to discount them, to underestimate them and in my opinion, this doesn't help us in the war on terror," Callimachi said.

She has gathered numerous documents left behind by ISIS as it has fled. Supplemented by the findings of others, she now knows that the Islamic State had 14 ministries including ministries of health, education and agriculture. They issued birth certificates and medical examinations as screening measures for children before they could begin school.

"We're trying to educate people, to tell them news," she stated as the purpose of her work. She explained that the line between reporting the news and providing these people with a platform is a "constant tension" and something she and her co-workers discuss frequently.

Callimachi spoke of the importance of listening in her work. When giving an interview, she doesn't talk and rather tries to listen without judgement. "If I approach them with judgement, they're going to shut down," she said.

Her work is mentally and emotionally intense. Over time, Callimachi has learned how to metabolize her emotions by allowing these feel-

ings to flow freely through her in the moment.

"If I have felt emotion in an interview, I've let myself cry with a source," she said.

Callimachi recognizes that her job as a journalist is to inform the public, not propose policy, noting that she does not have a solution to the War on Terror. But she does know that, while ISIS has lost its territory, it is not defeated. Instead, it has simply returned to its "insurgent roots."

In seeking to give advice to young journalists, Callimachi looked back to her time as an undergraduate student at Dartmouth. She suggested that students take advantage of language programs at Middlebury and learn new languages, as she regrets not learning Arabic while in school. Every additional language a journalist learns opens another section of the world for them to investigate.

The MCAB Speakers Committee, led by co-executives Rebecca Simon '19 and Jade Moses '20, brought Callimachi to campus. Simon said she was impressed by Callimachi's talk.

"Ms. Callimachi is a journalist who has proven to be a force of nature," she wrote in an email to The Campus. "Her empathy, innovativeness, and sheer brilliance is a testament to what journalism is and should always be."

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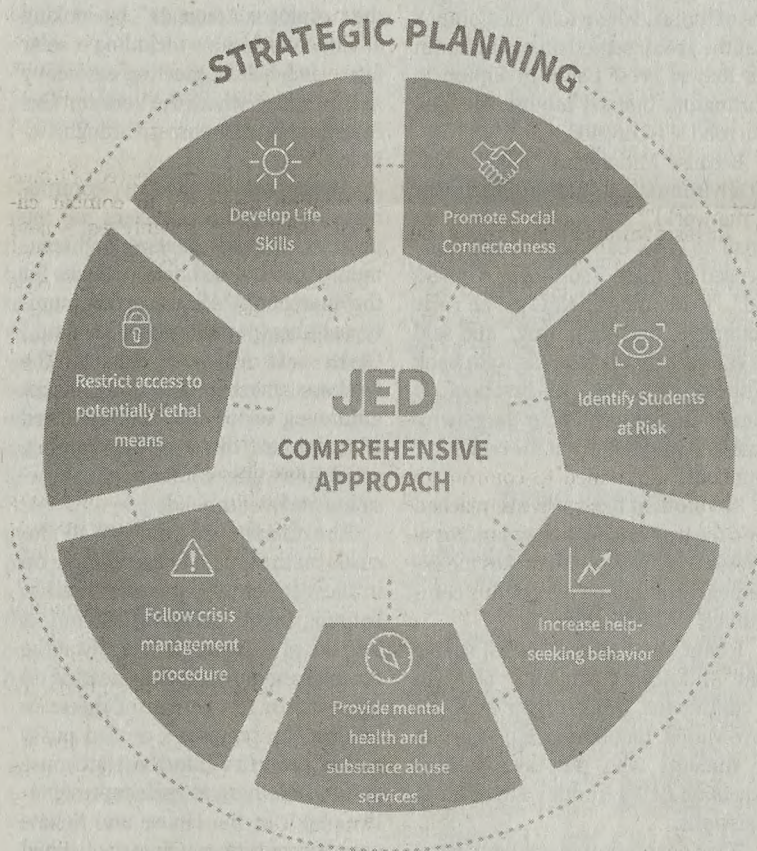


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COURTESY PHOTO

The "Comprehensive Approach" displayed on the JED Campus website.

Health Center Adopts New Mental Health Program

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year.

The Campus is currently investigating student claims that campus mental health services exhibit flaws in their availability and quality. An investigation evaluating student experiences with those services will be published before the end of the semester.

The changes coming to Parton next year may include staffing changes within the counseling department. "The number of students that we are able to see will definitely not go down, and it might go up," Jordan said. Restructuring the counseling center's hours may contribute to an increase in student access.

Other possible changes include making counseling available to students abroad, the creation of support groups for mental health issues and the creation of a counseling app.

However, the changes from the JED program will reach beyond counseling sessions.

"I would suspect in the next two years to train multiple constituencies on campus around how to spot mental issues early, how to intervene where issues are mild to moderate and how to refer to counseling issues that are serious," Jordan said.

Although residential life staff already receives training in this area, upcoming changes could include training for coaches and incoming faculty members, who are not trained.

Increased attention toward mental health is the most recent change to Parton, which at one point was a 24-hour infirmary. "I came here in 2000," said director of health services Mark Peluso. "Before my time Parton was over in Carr Hall, and there were lots of beds," Peluso said. "The whole second floor was an infirmary, there was a 'house mother,' they called it. She was loved, she took care of students when they were sick." Parton stopped offering overnight care in 2005, and now there is only one bed in Parton. Other recent changes have included the addition of a sexual assault examiner, HIV pre-exposure resources and the addition of a nurse phone number.

Although the JED program may result in staffing changes, dean of students Baishakhi Taylor stated there would be no involuntary staff cuts at Parton. However, some employees in Parton are eligible for the staff incentive separation plan that was introduced as part of the college's workforce planning initiative, which seeks to cut staff and faculty compensation costs. This incentive offers staff members a separation package based on their salary and how long they have been at the college.

The JED program will, however, reach beyond Parton. "This is a campus-wide mental health initiative," Jordan said. "I hope everybody in one way or another will be involved."

The Complicity Projects Launches Display in Davis Library

By CAROLINE KAPP
News Editor

From far away, this week's display in Davis Library appears a brightly-colored mosaic of posters. But upon closer inspection, the set-up reveals a carefully-curated collection of quotes and photographs that address ideas of campus complicity in issues of sexual assault and harassment at Middlebury.

The display was part of the Complicity Project, an initiative coordinated by the SGA Sexual and Relationship Respect Committee. The committee focuses on issues related to sexual respect such as bystander intervention.

Student responses from the go/complicity survey informed the display. The survey, conducted in the weeks preceding the exhibition, asked a variety of questions, including: How have you been complicit? What are examples you've heard/seen of people around you being complicit in campus sexual violence? What do you think we can do as a student body to be less complicit?

Posters also featured quotations from faculty members who

the committee had interviewed and photographs taken during tabling events in which students responded to issues of complicity on campus.

The committee is co-chaired by Cece Alter '19.5 and Vee Duong '19. "I really appreciated how people have engaged with it," Alter told The Campus. She hopes that the project will get people to start conversations about sexual violence on campus and how to change it.

"I want people to think more critically about their place in a culture that perpetuates sexual violence," Alter said, discussing the importance of speaking up when someone makes a harmful comment or joke.

Renee Wells, director of education for equity and inclusion, stressed the immense impact individuals can have in addressing issues of sexual violence. "Change always happens through individuals. It's individuals who change systems, but it's also individuals who change other individuals," Wells told The Campus.

Wells encouraged students to engage in conversations with their peers to discuss these issues.

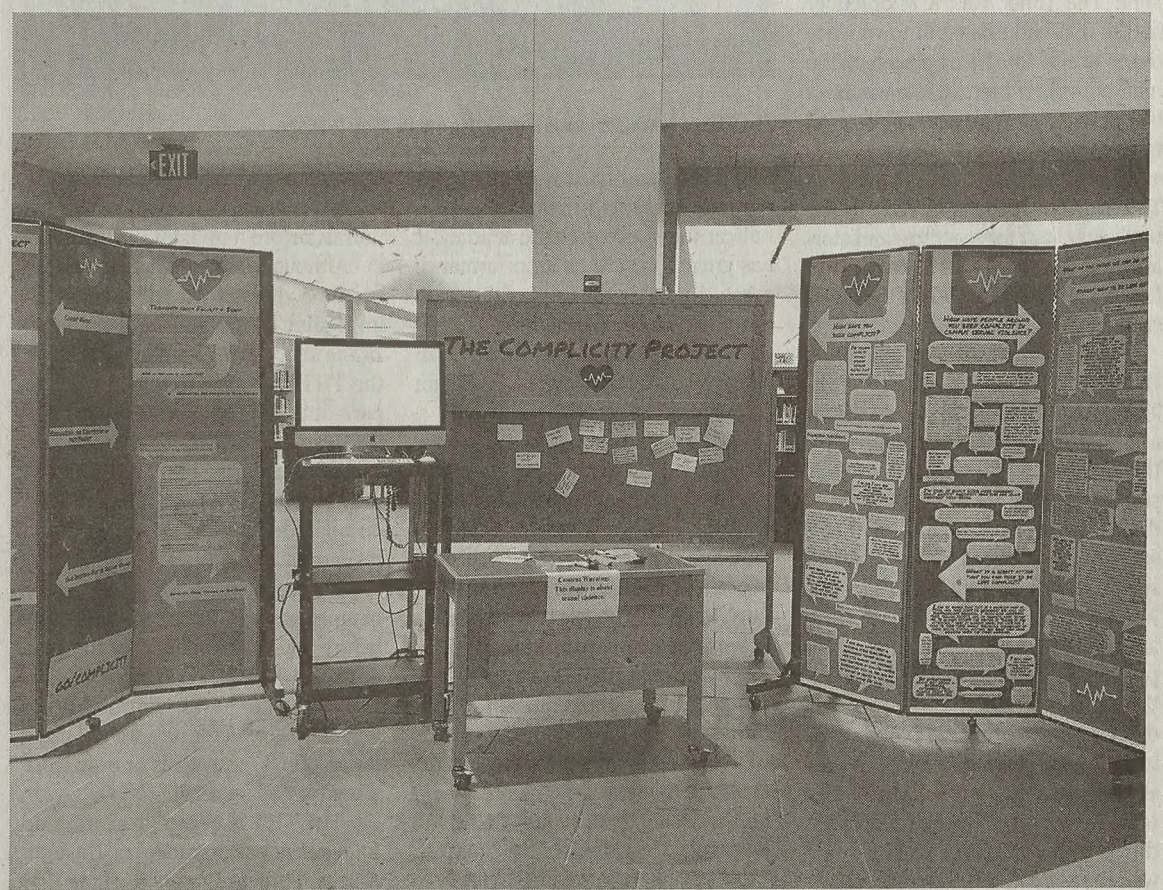
Throughout the process of

crafting the library display, the committee incorporated feedback: They removed individual identifiers from the stories, placed disclaimers and content warnings with the display and included survey responses which disagreed with the project.

"For some survivors, some of the actions that other people have labeled as complicit are actually coping mechanisms for surviving," Alter said, addressing some of the problems with the project. She explained that the purpose of the project is not to place blame on anyone.

On Thursday, April 18 at 4:30 in Hillcrest 103, Wells, along with Barbara McCall, director of health and wellness education, will be running a workshop centered around discussions of complicity. Wells explained that the workshop will be discussion driven and will look at issues such as why there is frequently silence around issues of sexual assault.

Wells said that since coming to campus this Fall, she has been impressed by students' passion and investment in addressing issues of sexual assault on campus. "For me, it gives me a lot of hope," she said.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Complicity Project's display is prominently exhibited in the Davis Family Library atrium.

Ethical, Artisanal & Piping Hot: Baristas to Bring Craft Coffee to Middlebury

By ARIADNE WILL
Staff Writer

For Aless and Matt Delia-Lôbo, making coffee has never been about the money.

"Working in coffee pays terrible because it's minimum wage, but you're also a crafts person," said Matt. "What I'm hoping to do with the cup of coffee we're going to be serving is to help push the craft itself."

The couple, who are planning on opening Royal Oak Coffee at 30 Seymour St. in Middlebury around May 1, hope to fill a void left by Cursive Coffee, a specialty coffee shop that closed its doors after nine short months of operation.



COURTESY PHOTO

Aless and Matt Delia-Lôbo, the barista masterminds behind Royal Oak Coffee.

"Cursive Coffee was two guys: one person would work each day, and they would alternate," explained Matt. "We would visit them as much as we could, and we saw the hole that their departure left — people saying, 'oh, good coffee is gone.'"

In a time when coffee is one of the world's leading commodities, Matt and Aless hope to brew a cup that tastes good, is ethical and draws the community together.

"I think that where the industry is going, you have people who are trying to make it so that anybody can get into coffee, work at one of these bigger companies, and then you can learn how to make it that way [...] in their stores," said Matt, explaining that such companies tend not to cater to individual pallets. "Even when you're trained to [make coffee] in a certain way, you're going to do it differently because of all the physical variables that go into the making of a cup of coffee," he described.

With years of barista-ing under their belts, Aless and Matt feel qualified and ready to pursue their dream of opening a shop. Aless, who started working as a barista seven years ago, met Matt while on the job.

"When we were working at the cof-

fee shop where we met, we both got really into the drink creation side of the business and all the science around that," Aless said. "Matt and I realized that coffee could be something way cooler than it was at the place where we were working back then."

Over time, it became clear to the couple that opening a shop of their own was something that needed to happen.

"If your passion is being behind a bar, making coffee for people, your only option is to open your own shop," said Matt. "Even being a lead barista, you're only making a few bucks more than someone who started yesterday."

While the coffee industry does not draw handsome wages for its baris-

people feel comfortable when they come in to see us," Aless said. "We want to have good music, we want to have conversations with everyone. We want to be part of the community on a personal basis, and we want to make the shop a place that people want to be in."

As part of the third wave coffee movement, which emphasizes the origins and ethical production of artisanal coffee, the two are working to deconstruct the stereotypes that tend to follow coffee culture in cities.

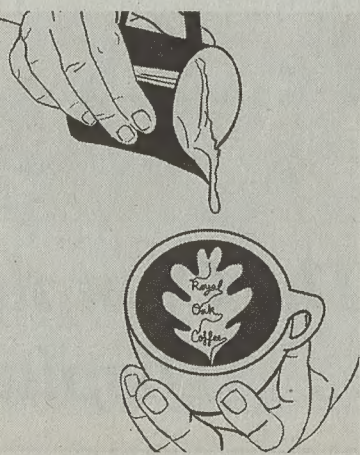
"We really want an unpretentious approach," said Aless, "and I think that when you bring in terms like 'specialty coffee' and 'third-wave coffee' and that's kind of the umbrella term, but our approach is much more universal."

Matt addressed other concerns that have arisen in more urban spaces upon the arrival of more specialized coffee shops: "Coffee like what we're bringing has been seen as a harbinger of gentrification. People see the coffee shop going in and think, 'Oh, now rent is going to go up and all the weird hipsters are going to move in and crowd the space,' but I feel that here, there's no danger of that happening," he said.

In a place where coffee's reputation is less stigmatized, the couple is excited to share their craft with the world and is eager to have Middlebury residents sample their brews.

"I hope people trust us enough to try black coffee," said Matt. "I hope people care a little bit about what the coffee itself tastes like, just to see and experiment. In terms of a place like this, it's always fun to try a black coffee and see what it's like."

Regardless of the adventurousness of their future customers, Matt and Aless have already observed the



ROYAL OAK COFFEE FACEBOOK

Royal Oak Coffee's artistic logo.

community's embrace of their future shop.

"The community here is incredible," said Matt.

"Yes," added Aless, "I don't think I've ever gotten so many hugs from strangers in my life."

"We want to make a space where

From Break an Egg to "Break a Leg!": Town Hall Theater Plans to Renovate

By DANNY
GRUBBS-DONOVAN
Contributing Writer

The Middlebury Town Hall Theater (THT) is beginning to renovate and refurbish the former Diner, located at 66 Merchants Row, into a performance and meeting space. The THT acquired the building, which is located just next door, in April of last year for a total of \$300,000. Before the purchase, the space was home to the Diner, a well-loved breakfast joint. The Diner was a Middlebury fixture that had existed in town since the 1930's, before being placed on the market by its owners in late winter of last year. The new space will be used to show performances, host events, and hold meetings by the Town Hall Theater. The space is already in use by theater staff for meetings and storage, and the THT plans to be ready to host events for the public in the Diner space by summer 2019.

"It's all about flexibility," said Mark Bradley, the executive director of the THT. The former dining room will be a performance/meeting area, while the kitchen has been gutted and will serve as storage for the theater's productions. The kitchen currently holds some of the lumber that was used for sets in the theater's J-Term musical. According to Bradley, this extra space is crucial. He explained that before the purchase of the adjacent building, the theater had "very little room for production work — think set building, rehearsing, costumes, etc. We've been able to manage, but on top of that we don't have anywhere to store the things we're creating, much of which we can re-use in other productions."

The new space will primarily function as a performance venue. Although the Diner building is not large,



CAMPUS FILE PHOTO/MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

The Diner before it closed for business in May 2018.

with a long and narrow dining room reminiscent of its original form as a rail-car diner, according to Bradley, it has great potential as a performance space. A nook in the front of the main room serves as a natural stage, and the space possesses a quaint charm which the THT plans to maintain throughout the renovation process.

On a tour of the space, the cozy feel of the Diner still shines through, even as renovation begins. The floor is patterned with red-and-white checkered linoleum tiles, and the walls are adorned with scenes of life in Middlebury, including people relaxing on the Town Green and eating in the Diner.

"It's a really nice room to be in, you can feel the memories and the love for the place," Bradley described. He went on to detail the ways in which the renovation process will both maintain and tune up the comfortable and nostalgic atmosphere of the interiors. The THT plans to refurbish but keep in place the original flooring, and is considering different ways to update the artwork on the walls. The murals are of actual residents of the town of

Middlebury, so the THT plans to take high-resolution photographs of the murals before it updates the walls.

Although the building will no longer be a diner, food will remain an important of the location's function. In the short term, Bradley hopes that the THT can bring in a food truck to park outside of the venue so that visitors can eat and drink during events. In the long term, the THT plans to fully replace the Diner building with an upgraded performance space and restaurant.

"I have dreams for a real café/bistro type area for patrons to enjoy before and after events — or the kind of place where you can enjoy a show while eating or having a drink," Bradley said. "During the day, we will use it for meetings, rehearsals or even lease it out for pop up retail."

The THT is currently gearing up for a run of performances of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, which will run between April 25 and 28 and May 2 through 5 and features

Continued on Page 5



DIVYA GUDUR

Protesters wave flags as they march towards the Statehouse in Montpelier to raise climate awareness.

One Week Later, Activists Reflect on Climate Walk

By NICOLE POLLACK
Senior Writer

Two weeks ago, extensive collaboration among members of Middlebury's Sunday Night Environmental Group (SNEG) and a number of local and statewide activist organizations culminated in the "Next Steps: Climate Solutions Walk." Protesters joined in for as much of the 5-day, 65-mile walk as they could, beginning at the Middlebury Town Green on Friday and concluding on Tuesday, April 9 with a protest at the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier.

The Next Steps march was inspired in part by a climate awareness walk held during the fall of 2006. Thirteen years before Next Steps, Bill McKibben and six others gathered at Carol's Coffee Shop, formerly located where The Daily Grind stands now, to think through the branding, logistics and outreach of a climate walk. Professor of Economics Jon Isham was one of the six. Isham told The Campus that the group settled on a route from the Robert Frost Cabin in Ripton to Burlington, themed around the idea of a road less traveled.

Because Middlebury "has the oldest environmental studies department in the world," McKibben wrote in an email to The Campus, "it naturally focused on these issues before others did." He identified SNEG as "an early example of fine organizing," and said he gave the first talk on his 1989 book "The End of Nature," the first book on climate change written for the general public, at Middlebury at the request of a student.

"To see that this spirit has reached even the trustees, with their landmark decision on divestment, makes me extremely proud to be part of this community," McKibben wrote.

Isham also praised SNEG, saying that Middlebury students' activism is continuous, though their methods have varied, mentioning a past group of students who put fake parking tickets on SUVs to draw attention to emissions.

"One generation of students passes down victories and ideas and frustrations to the next," Isham said.

Divya Gudur '21 is a student activist and SNEG member who played a central role in organizing the Climate Solutions Walk. Her primary roles included registering participants and coordinating the younger walkers, whose involvement was a key feature of the Climate Solutions Walk.

"It's like, I'm responsible for this one thing, but there's so much planning going to other things," Gudur said. "Everything had to come together."

Gudur said the march was a communal activity — a time for people brought together by a shared cause

to get to know each other, with no distractions except the beautiful land around them. It was an opportunity for everyone to connect personally to climate issues, and for Middlebury students, especially, to engage more closely with surrounding communities.

"I had a blast," said Leif Taranta '21, another student activist and SNEG member who marched for several days. He said the walk was a fun, cheery experience, which was something he had not anticipated because of the grimness of climate change. It was musical, too, he added, as participants sang along the walk and were occasionally joined by bands along the way.

The marchers began walking around nine each morning and took frequent rest stops throughout the day. The days all had themes — reunion, resist, recreate, reimagine and reform — and the stops matched those themes. On Sunday, April 7 they explored "recreate" by looking at climate solutions including a solar farm, and held a greeting ceremony in Hinesburg, where the Vermont Gas Systems pipeline passes through Geprags Park.

At the end of the day, communities hosted the marchers for the night in churches, houses, and community centers and held potlucks for the marchers. "All these community members would make us food," Gudur said. "It was amazing. The food was amazing." After-dinner programming varied daily, but consisted of nonviolent direct action training, action planning, community conversation and an art build.

The Climate Solutions Walk focused on three resolutions coming up in the Vermont legislature related to banning fossil fuel infrastructure. A number of marchers will testify at the recently announced public hearing on April 23. In recognition of the resolutions, the protestors carried pussy willow branches into the statehouse and placed them at each representative's spot in the House and Senate energy committees. On tags attached to the branches, the younger participants wrote the things they wanted to preserve.

About 300 people packed into the halls of the statehouse at the end of the march, with the youth standing in the middle. As they sang "More Waters Rising," Gudur said the solidarity was powerful, referring to it as "literally the best day of my life."

Taranta stressed how valuable it would be for more Middlebury students to get involved in climate issues and work to make change themselves. "Not everyone can walk 65 miles," he said, but "there are hard things that all of us can do."

VT Maple Syrup Production Rides out Difficult Season

By KYRA STECK
Contributing Writer

Vermont is the nation's leading maple syrup producer, generating almost 2 million gallons annually — nearly half the country's total crop. An essential feature of the state's economy and national identity, this staple product may now be in danger as persistent low temperatures and snowfall shorten the sugaring season.

While late February and early March typically mark the start of the season, a pattern of prolonged winters and heavy March snow has delayed initial sap runs, setting many sugar makers back. For some, such as Abby and Trent Roleau of Gateway Farm in Bristol, production could not begin until mid-March — over a two week

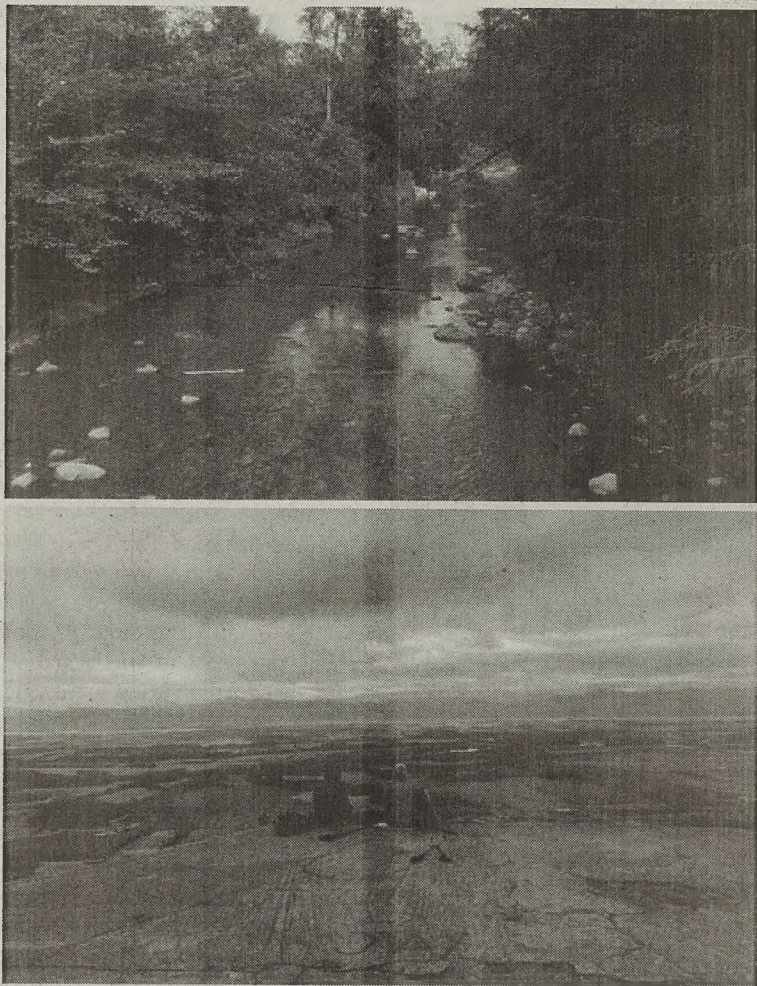
delay for a season that only lasts 4 to 6 weeks.

These delays can have serious implications for production, as noted by Don Gale, the owner and operator of Twin Maple Sugarworks in Lincoln. With the late start, low temps and continuing snowfall, Gale is producing, each day, less than a third of the maple syrup he produced last season. "It's just been too cold with too much snow," he said.

The Addison County Sugar Makers Association (ACSM), which helps producers with financing, wholesaling and retailing syrup, has yet to reach a definite conclusion on the issue.

"Because the season started later and was shorter than in recent years,

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ABOVE: ELLIE KROGER BELOW: COURTNEY CRAWFORD
Above: A river along the Robert Frost Interpretive Trail. Below: The view from the top of Snake Mountain.

Go Take A Hike! Hit the Trails this Spring

By COURTNEY CRAWFORD,
ELLIE KROGER, BRYN HES-
TER AND HANNAH GELLERT
Contributing Writers

It can be difficult to break out of the Middlebury College bubble. Especially if you don't like the cold. Whether you've felt cooped up all winter or you skied every day, there are so, so many outdoor activities to do now that it's spring. Here are personal reflections on four different hikes not too far from Middlebury College:

Snake Mountain Hike:

Two weekends ago I decided on a whim to hike Snake Mountain with a friend. It's a relatively short drive from the college (about 20 minutes). With access to a car it is easily reachable. We parked at a small lot near the start of the trail. The start of the hike was extremely muddy, so expect to get a little wet, but the farther up we hiked the less muddy it got. There were some small patches of ice and snow along the way, but they were easy to avoid. We went on a Saturday morning, so we passed lots of families, dogs and Middlebury students. It was a great quick escape from campus and the view from the top was pretty amazing. It would have been a great spot for a picnic and the next time I hike it I'll be bringing some snacks to sit at the top longer. The hike in total took about a two hours (one up and one down).

The Robert Frost Interpretive Trail:

I've always been fascinated by Robert Frost, the famous 20th-century American nature poet who lived in Vermont for most of his life. He taught at the Middlebury's Breadloaf School of English for forty years and spent his free time writing poetry about the Vermont landscape that surrounded him. The Robert Frost Interpretive Trail, one of my favorite spots to wander near Middlebury, gives you a chance to experience this VT landscape for yourself. The trail can be found along Route 125 between Middlebury and Breadloaf. It's an easy loop: about one mile, mainly flat and takes about 45 minutes to complete. Frost's poems are mounted along the trail to contemplate, and the trail meanders across and alongside a stream. Plants such as birch trees and wild raisin are identified with wood-

signs. During the summer, there are blueberries to pick and the forest is green and lush. In the winter, the trees may be bare, but they create a dramatic contrast with the sparkling white snow.

TAM Class of '97 trail:

If you're in search of an easy escape from the Middlebury's campus, and maybe even hoping for a reminder of a Pacific Northwest-esque landscape, then the TAM '97 trail near the Knoll is the place for you. After following a field for a bit and crossing a marshy area filled with the croaks of frogs, you'll duck into a trail shaded by pine trees where you'll sense a shift: the air is slightly cooler and there is a faint smell of pine. You might have to dodge by a couple inches of pine needle-filled ice, which, despite spring's increasing temperatures, has been kept frozen in the shade of the trail. If you make it past the ice, you'll continue by some fields until reaching the highway, where you can cross to the part of the trail that follows a creek. I really like this part of the TAM because it is easy to get to from campus, but is still an escape from the college.

Mount Abe Hike:

On Sunday, April 7, I did a sunrise hike of Mount Abe. We — myself and CATZ, a group from an early morning workout group that has members from the broader Middlebury community — left around 5:30 a.m. It was light out by the time we got to the trailhead. Mount Abe is in Lincoln, VT, around 35 minutes from campus. The Green Mountain Club has already declared mud season so we hiked up Battell Trail instead of the Long Trail. There was still a lot of snow on the hike. Microspikes (slip-on spikes that lend traction in snowy and icy conditions) were necessary, and, in some places, you could see holes where people had sunk through at least 2 feet of snow. The last time I hiked Mount Abe was in the fall during peak foliage. What had been a slight scramble up rock in the fall had become a steep trek through snow. The top of the hike was as beautiful as always and not too windy. We ate some snacks, took some pictures and then headed down. The best part of the hike was the people that I went with! After our hike we went to Bristol Cliffs Café, ate some breakfast sandwiches and made it back to campus to start homework by 11 a.m.

THT PLANS FOR FUTURE

Continued from Page 4

a few Middlebury College students. The theater frequently offers opportunities for Middlebury theater students to perform, including hosting the J-Term musical in January, which this year was 'Sunday in the Park with George'. Some of these same students could perform in the Diner space as soon as next fall.

The THT represents an important community institution for the town of Middlebury. Jeremy Navarro '21, who interns at the theater in the business office, spoke about the theater's recent "Shakespeare in Elementary" series, which encourages local public school students to participate in productions of Shakespearean plays. "It's an amazing theatrical endeavor that unites a lot of families and builds

up a good community space," said Navarro.

The theater's goals, according to Bradley, are to "help build and strengthen communities, to offer great events and experiences and to have the space and resources to do this work well."

Although the THT has general goals for the space, it seems that its vision for the building is flexible and being shaped and refined day-to-day due to the versatility of the space and the variety of events that the theater offers, ranging from "folk music set[s] to comedy and theater," as Bradley puts it. Whatever the final result, the new space promises to be an entertaining attraction that will enrich the cultural offerings of the town and college community.

Town Lands \$62,500 Planning Grant

By ALEX WHITE
Staff Writer

The town of Middlebury received a \$62,500 grant from the state government to begin planning for the future of its downtown area. The award came through the "Better Connections" program, a partnership between the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Awards were announced in a press release on April 9. The money will go towards the hiring of consultants, data collection and community outreach to determine how to make the best use of Middlebury's downtown.

According to Middlebury's successful 118 page grant application, the town plans to create a "Downtown Master Plan focused on enhancing the vitality and functional efficiency of Downtown Middlebury." The plan will be created through a public process, seeking input from community members as well as stakeholders such as local businesses and Middlebury College.

Numerous downtown businesses have voiced support for the Downtown Master Plan, many of them providing letters of support which accompanied the grant application.

In addition to Middlebury, the towns of Fairlee and Northfield also received grants from the "Better Connections" program. "This inter-agency collaboration allows communities to plan and grow in a way that integrates transportation and land-use planning with economic development decision-making," said Agency of Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn, as quoted in the April 9 press release.

"How do we make sure downtown functions to make the best use of [the Amtrak development]?"

The planning project is anticipated to be completed by March of 2020 and, according to Middlebury Director of Planning and Zoning Jennifer Murray, "will be implemented over the course of many years."

Jennifer Murray, who is also the project manager, named many important considerations the plan will address, including downtown parking, river access, engagement with college students, bike path linkages and the future of the Bakery Lane Municipal Lot — an underutilized piece of prime real estate. The planning grant comes at a timely moment as major development is set to arrive soon to the town of Middlebury in the construction of an Amtrak station. "Amtrak is anticipated to start serving Middlebury in 2021. We have to ask, 'how do we plan around it, how do we make sure downtown functions to make best use of it,'" said Murray.

According to Murray, public facilitation will be a crucial element of the planning process. In addition to the local economic data that will be collected this summer, much input will be solicited from all community members and stakeholders. Meetings will take place between the planning team and key stakeholders such as Middlebury College and downtown businesses, and a public outreach strategy will be developed to get people thinking about downtown and promote input from the community.

Murray said to stay tuned for downtown events to come later this year, especially "design charrettes" in September or October, where all stakeholders will come together in intense collaboration and consultation. The grant application holds much more in the way of community engagement including "an art contest to engage youth, wayfinding describing previous uses of Downtown structures and sidewalk art and poetry."

It has been a long time since large-scale planning efforts have been made in Middlebury. The most recent major planning effort took place in 2000, when a system of sidewalks and street-lamps was planned and implemented. The last truly comprehensive planning took place in the 1970s. This acquisition of this grant marks the beginning of a new, as yet unplanned era in the development of the town of Middlebury.

VT Ranked Top in Gender Equality, But Experts Say There's Work to Do

By LUCY TOWNEND
Staff Writer

Vermont has been ranked number one overall for 2019 in Bloomberg's annual report on gender equality. This is the third year in a row that Vermont has led the rankings in the yearly report. The state was also ranked number 6 for women in leadership, and received high scores in the report's five categories — pay ratio by gender, female labor force participation, college degree attainment, health coverage and women in poverty.

Rep. Linda Sullivan, D-Dorset, attributes this ranking to the priorities of the state legislature. "With a strong focus from the legislature on gender equality," she said, "Vermont will be driven to be a leader in this area."

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Vermont's legislature is 39.4 percent female compared to 28.7 percent nationwide. Vermont boasts 71 female members to 109 male members. The legislature recently passed a bill requiring employers to pay sick leave and is considering a bill allowing paternity leave — two pieces of legislation that are aimed at increasing gender equality.

"The legislature is working on bills to provide higher livable wages," said Sullivan, "as well as to work through issues of providing other benefits to families."

Representative Mollie Burke from Brattleboro and other policymakers recently proposed a resolution which designates April 2, 2019 as Equal Pay Day, with a proclamation signed by Governor Scott that same day. Advocates for equal pay wore red during legislative sessions.

Sullivan also acknowledged that there are challenges in passing legislation to eliminate the gender-pay gap. "However, these bills need to be thoroughly vetted and weighed against the costs to provide the services," she said, "so while there are projects in the works, the roadmap to getting there must be well thought-out so as not to create barriers for the very populations they are intended to assist."

Closing the wage gap would have many benefits for Vermont as a whole. Equal pay reduces poverty, adds money to the overall economy and attracts families to Vermont.

According to a report issued by Change the Story (CTS), a Vermont-based organization working towards gender equality, Vermont does well in the categories considered by Bloomberg. Women have a pay ratio gap of 16 cents, compared to a 20 cent wage gap nationally. For labor force participation, 66 percent of women

worked in Vermont's labor force compared to 58 percent of women nationally.

"Education is a key area of focus," claimed Sullivan. In terms of education, 33 percent of women earn a bachelor's degree in Vermont, six points higher than the national average for women's education.

One of the indicators in which Vermont does poorly is rate of women in poverty, in which Vermont is ranked 17 with a rate of 12 percent. The CTS also found that women are significantly more likely to live in poverty than men, and 3 percent of Vermont women who work full-time do not make enough to cover basic living expenses.

It's also important to note that the Bloomberg report does not break down statistics in terms of race. For example, Vermont ranked well for the gender pay gap, yet this gap is much larger for women of color. As reported by the Vermont Commission on Women, there is a 46 percent gap for Hispanic and Latina women, a 42 percent gap for American Indian and Alaska Native women, a 40 percent gap for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander women, a 37 percent gap for African American women and a 15 percent gap for Asian women.

The CTS found that in Vermont, 13.4 percent of all families with minor children live in poverty. This number increases to 37 percent if a woman is the single head of the household. CTS also found that the wage gap of women with dependent children increases to 26 percent, as compared to the 30 percent for women nationally.

"Middlebury does well in gender equality, but there are always ways to improve," said Ellie Broeren '22, an active member of Feminist Action Middlebury (FAM). The college currently boasts a 48.2 to 51.8 male to female ratio for students, with a staff ration of 49.5 to 50.5 (male to female). Still, such statistics fail to account for some of Middlebury's underlying problems.

"What comes to mind for me is the lack of transparency about contraception and sexual health on campus, as this is an issue that largely affects women," said Boeren. To combat this, FAM has created a website at go/sexyresources that provides information on sexual health and are currently trying to get Plan B available at Middlebury Express.

Despite the issues in gender equality that are still prevalent in Vermont and at Middlebury College, Sullivan reminds us to also celebrate our successes. "With a strong focus from the legislature on gender equality," she says, "Vermont [has been] driven to be a leader in this area."



THE GATEWAY FARM FACEBOOK

The Bristol sugarworks freshly harvested maple syrup.

Sugarmakers Face Wintry Challenges

Continued from Page 4

the production is a bit off," explained Barbara Rainville, the Secretary and Treasurer for the ACSMA. With production disrupted, Rainville noted that there may be a subsequent rise in retail prices. However, syrup remains "a global market" and pricing will continue to be influenced by other competitors, such as Maine and Canada.

Although disruptive, these ecological shifts may actually represent a return to the norm for more seasoned sugar makers. Dave Folino of Hillsboro Sugarworks described the clinging winter as feeling "more like the 1970s or some previous era."

Rainville, whose family has been sugaring in Lincoln, Vermont for over 80 years, reiterated this feeling, sharing that, "in our family, Grandpa always said sugaring started at town meeting and ended at grandma's birthday, which is April 10. So this year is more the norm, and the last few years historically have been outliers."

Even if these extended winters are in fact a return to a previous norm, they still bring trouble. There may be statewide repercussions if these shifts persist, as maple is a key enterprise for Vermont. According to a 2015 study by the Center for Rural Studies at UVM,

the Vermont maple industry contributes between \$317 and \$330 million to the state in annual sales, and adds \$140 to \$144 million in value to the economy each year. Additionally, the maple industry contributes heavily to Vermont's tourist appeal as millions of Americans come to visit each year. From both an economic and cultural perspective, maple syrup is absolutely vital.

Luckily, recent technological advancements in equipment may be able to offset the effects of a shorter season. Ken Hastings of Bread Loaf View Farms was actually able to exceed his goals for this years production despite a slight delay, and he attributes part of this success to advances in equipment.

"I suspect if we had the same practices as when we started, we would definitely see an impact," he said. He also notes that the sugar content was "very high this year, resulting in a good crop of high quality sugar."

Hastings, who began sugaring in 1985, produces roughly 1000 to 1500 gallons of syrup each year and finished his season on April 7. Located only three miles from Middlebury College, Bread Loaf View Farm is owned and operated by two alumni and often hosts pancake breakfasts, open houses and tours for students.

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Varsha Vijayakumar for SGA President

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

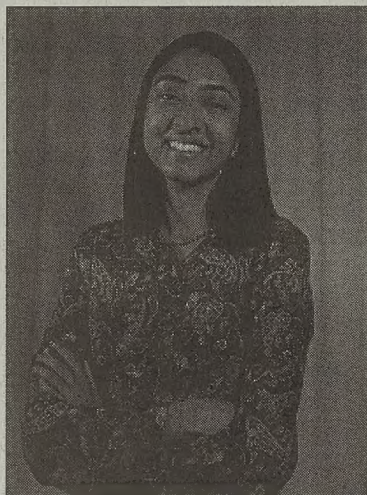
We are proud to endorse Varsha Vijayakumar for SGA President. We believe that Varsha's past experience on SGA and her extracurricular involvements will enable her to run an effective government while remaining in touch with the student body. We were especially impressed with the way she created her platform: through conversations and collaboration with many students. We think this community-oriented strategy indicates how she would gather information and set priorities as president, pairing smaller, practical goals with big ideas and long-term proposals.

Varsha has shown that she has learned from her previous experience on SGA and from past presidents. We know she will act

thoughtfully and respectfully with all students and administrators. We also trust her to hold herself and all SGA members accountable to the student body by remaining transparent.

We would also like to recognize and commend John Gosselin for his committed work with SGA and Community Council. John shares Varsha's thoughtfulness, and we believe that his dedication and attention to detail make him a strong candidate for many top cabinet positions.

We appreciate all the enthusiasm for student government demonstrated by first-year students who care about campus issues. While there are many invested students, there are also races that are uncontested and at least one position that will be vacant



COURTESY PHOTO

for one semester next year. We challenge more students to get involved in elections so that our student government can have vibrant debate and healthy competition.

Mandatory Bias Training is Necessary but Insufficient; Hamilton Forum is Proof

By TRAVIS SANDERSON

On Sunday, the Student Government Association (SGA) Senate sent an email calling for mandatory bias training for all "hired professionals and all student organization leaders, including members of the SGA and school publications." The SGA indicated full support for training that may change the culture that led to heavily-publicized jokes about the chemistry questions that asked students to calculate the lethal dose of hydrogen cyanide and mentioned the KKK.

The need for mandatory bias training has been ignored for years. In 2017, Community Council conducted a survey that indicated widespread insensitivity among faculty to working class students' backgrounds and concerns. On May 9, 2017, faculty members J. Finley, Mez Baker-Medard and William Poulin-Deltour's recommendation for socioeconomic bias training passed with unanimous support from Community Council. The initiative was specifically targeted at socioeconomic bias training; however, the recommendation was passed only by noting that bias training addressing all kinds of identities was needed. One faculty member is recorded in the public minutes as even suggesting a "Just-alks for faculty." It was recognized that Faculty Council was the institution that could make mandatory bias training happen. To my understanding, the recommendation was not picked up by Faculty Council. The need for bias training stagnated until now, when a series of incidents proved the continued truth that many faculty are alarmingly unaware of the impact of their pedagogy on their students.

While mandatory bias training is necessary, I am not convinced of its sufficiency in changing the culture at the heart of the problem. The invitation of Ryszard Legutko really drove home that point. Legutko is a virulent homophobe, a sexist and a member of a populist radical right (PRR) party responsible for rolling back democracy in Poland. His views are reminiscent of white nationalist Richard Spencer's, who also sees multiculturalism as a degradation of a pristine "Christian and Classical" civilization. It is easy to draw a parallel between Charles Murray and Ryszard Legutko, but there are a few key differences.

When Charles Murray was invited, many senior figures were unaware of the already-simmering tension that was ignited by Murray. There is no feasible way that officials

were ignorant of potential backlash this time. Secondly, the chair of the Political Science department acknowledged that the "short amount of time between when the event became public and when it occurred gave all of us scant opportunity to listen to and understand alternative points of view." The speakers policy was then modified to ensure that the community had ample time to discuss and debate speakers.

I am suspicious of the Hamilton Forum's intentions. While the Forum did register Ryszard Legutko as a speaker, posters included no information on his controversial nature. They mentioned only his membership in the European Parliament and participation in the Polish anti-communist movement. Any hint at his illiberal nature and dangerous false equivalencies, like describing queer activists' tactics as "Bolshevik" and gay folks as the "sacred cows" of society, were omitted. Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs (RCGA) advisory board members received invitations to the RCGA's "Populism, Homophobia, and Illiberal Democracy" panel to engage the community in dialogue only a day in advance of the panel. At best, the effort seemed belated and haphazard. If the Hamilton Forum was interested in engaging the community in productive discourse, they would have been forthright with the nature of Legutko's views from the start. Organizing Ryszard Legutko's talk in such a hidden and dishonest way seems, to me, to be an illustration that the Hamilton Forum was determined to invite this specific speaker without giving the entire community a chance to challenge his authoritarian ideas.

The apparent intention behind the Hamilton Forum's invitation makes me doubtful that mandatory bias training will sufficiently address the problem of bigotry in the community. The Hamilton Forum, in inviting an illiberal politician without engaging the community in any real dialogue, ignored the hard-won lessons of the Murray fiasco. Despite the community's likely resistance, they invited him. Despite consensus two years ago that the community should have a chance to discuss and develop strategies to deal with controversial speakers, they invited him—quietly. No amount of mandatory bias training is likely to change the behavior of people who invite a hate-filled speaker knowing full well the potential consequences.

One can look at the repeated instances of bias and bigotry as one problem—ignorance. I am increasingly convinced that there are two

separate problems. The first is ignorance, which can be corrected through bias training. The second is something different. It is generational, a worldview that diverges wildly from that of many progressive students on campus. If we assume that the Hamilton Forum is not illiberal itself, then we can assume that the Forum's members view Legutko's talk as a potential opportunity to resoundingly prove the superiority of liberal values. That assumption is logically consistent with the values that underpin the Hamilton Forum's mission statement. In this worldview, liberal values are viewed as the logical and inevitable victors in a fair marketplace of ideas. Ryszard Legutko's regressive rhetoric can be resoundingly defeated, as all authoritarian ideologies can and will. His talk on campus is not a threat to the people he singles out and oppresses back home, notably gay activists and feminists, if there is no real threat to the liberal values that protect marginalized people.

Progressive students have a strikingly different worldview, less idealistic than realistic. We see the rolling back of democratic values around the world as proof of the danger of legitimating authoritarian views. We see Legutko in the context of a global far right movement. Far from failing in the marketplace of ideas, illiberal ideas have emerged as the ruling consensus in countries distant and disparate, from Poland to the United States. There is no guarantee that liberal values win in the marketplace of ideas. We see a connection between the homophobia of government that caused the deaths of queer people, notably during the first decades of the AIDS epidemic, and contemporary homophobic politicians like Ryszard Legutko. We recognize the world as digital; people do not need to engage with homophobic and illiberal politicians directly to possess an educated understanding that homophobia and authoritarianism are profound threats to liberty and equality. The deep gap in worldviews between the Hamilton Forum and progressive students, between idealists and realists, is embedded in the current conflict.

In the end, mandatory bias training is necessary but insufficient. Overall, we need to find some sort of bridge across different worldviews if we hope to address the problem of hatred and bias on campus.

Travis Sanderson is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019.

In Defense of Jeff Byers

By ELLIS GLICKMAN

A month ago, I took a chemistry test that asked me to calculate the lethal dose of hydrogen cyanide. In a test full of these types of questions, which asked students to calculate lethal doses accompanied by a little blurb about what each chemical was, this particular one referencing Nazi Germany did not give me pause.

I had not read The Local Noodle's article until it was mentioned in the Community Bias Response Team's email. The first I heard about the problem was when we came back from spring break and, before starting class, Professor Byers took several minutes to apologize and acknowledge complaints brought to him by students about the exam question. He even said that, if we felt the question inhibited our ability to successfully finish the exam, he would regrade it with this in mind. I understand why people take offense to the question and, yes, it is unsettling, distasteful, short-sighted, etc. But to call it harmful is more dangerous than the question itself could ever be.

I am Jewish. Both my uncles are rabbis. I did not mind the question because, frankly, the Holocaust happened, and the gas was used. I took it at face value as an attempt at historical relevance — if he had never said what HCN was, I would not need to write this today and we would all have simply calculated some meaningless jumble of letters. Should he instead have had us calculate rat poison? The lethality of bathroom ammonium? Yes. Should he lose his teaching position? No.

The handling of this situation has snowballed in a way that is more similar to a Saturday Night Live skit than anything resembling a reasonable response. As the Noodle briefly referenced, CHEM 103 was a flipped classroom where we watched pre-recorded tapes of Professor Byers' lectures as homework and then worked collaboratively on classroom problem sets. We received an email on April 12 from our new chemistry professor saying that, since she could not remove Professor Byers' videos from the class website (he did not use Canvas), we must "refrain from watching them." Other students have defended this, saying it is awkward having to watch this man who is no longer our professor. The situation is certainly awkward, but that discomfort does not warrant the Chemistry Department's strong condemnation of Byers — of one of their own — nor their official demand that we not watch his videos on our own time.

I am not writing a letter defending a test question. I am writing a letter defending a professor. A professor who has worked at this school about twice as long as I have been alive. The administration has turned against him in an effort to kowtow to its students. Let me just say something: if you are not currently in Professor Byers' chemistry class, you do not know the full story. And, admittedly, neither do we. But all you are doing is condemning a man based on gossip and creating an echo chamber that is in turn turning others against him.

Professor Byers has not defended himself to us even once. Not when he first brought up his mistake in class, and not now. He has apologized for everything he has done wrong and for the offense taken. He has given full points to everyone in the class for that exam question, regardless of whether they were insulted or not, and has offered to regrade the entire exam if they were. He has stopped class many times just to reiterate his multi-decade long commitment to creating a safe environment in his classroom and his sadness in having failed us.

When school continues this semester without Professor Byers, the only life that you have changed is his. This campus is not any safer or more accepting. You have not proven Middlebury's tolerance nor its dedication to open-minded progressivism. You have merely proven that anything that can be interpreted as offensive therefore is, and that its speaker deserves to be punished. My letter so far has been loud and arrogant and angry and my best defense is that I am angry. It sickens me that we can do this as a community: faculty and students alike have completely thrown someone under the bus without regard.

Continued on Page 7

Sex Panther: Let's Talk About STIs (And Other Things) Baby!

By SEX PANTHER



You've probably heard it a million times, sex kittens, but communication is key! This counts in pretty much every relationship you will ever have, whether it is a sexual one or a romantic one or a professional one or anything in between. If you don't start honing your communication skills—really making sure that you equip yourself with the tools you need to speak honestly, compassionately and openly about things that maybe make you uncomfortable or that are difficult to talk about—then you are setting yourself and the people you interact with up for failure and frustration.

Sure, communication looks different to everyone, but holding space for others and having a willingness to be vulnerable are

important skills when it comes to romance or sex. Like, super important. Realistically, I myself have failed at communicating my wants and needs or holding space on many occasions, and you probably have failed and will continue to do so. What is important is building those skills and striving to have those hard conversations, even when choosing to ignore or dance around them seems easier. Trust me, it is not easier, not in the long run.

Take, for example, disclosing your STI status to partners. First off, if you are going to be having ANY kind of oral or genital contact with anyone ever, YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR STI STATUS. This could be a whole damn column in its own right, but seriously. If you are not mature enough to march your ass down to Parton, say "Hi, I'd like to request a full STI screening please," and TAKE THE DAMN TEST, you are not mature enough to be putting your genitals or mouth near anyone else's but your Fleshlights.

Parton has funding to subsidize these tests, making them FREE to you as a student. It is literally free. I am begging you. Plenty of people don't have sex with other people, and while it is

still helpful to know your STI status even in those cases, it is less irresponsible to the health and safety of others than if you don't know your status and do choose to engage in acts which can transmit STIs.

This is not to say that STIs are dirty or immoral or bad in any way—there are many ways to contract STIs. A partner of mine once got oral herpes from sharing a water bottle with a friend. Another friend of mine contracted chlamydia after a drunken hookup where their partner didn't know (or worse, failed to disclose—which in certain cases can be a federal offense) their STI status. Sex is fun, and sometimes you're gonna have to deal with STIs. It happens. But don't let it ruin your fun. Make sure you're equipped to deal with those crucial conversations.

Here's an example:

Person A: "I can't wait to eat you out."

Person B: "That sounds amazing! Before we do that though, when was the last time you got tested? I just got tested last week, but nothing to report here!"

Person A: "About 6 months ago. But I did have a cold sore a couple of weeks ago..."

Person B: "Thanks for letting me know! I'd still love to get eaten out. Let's use a dental

dam to be safe. What flavor do you prefer? I have cherry, mint, and unflavored."

Yeah, we all know that the conversation might be longer or a little bit awkward, especially if the person has not been tested in a while, but it is important to know what you're walking into to have both a safe and fun experience. And if you get tested and find out that you have contracted an STI, it is always a good idea to let partners you have had since your last test know that they should get tested too.

If you ask a partner or partners their STI statuses and they can't or won't respond...then RUN. They might be perfectly nice people, they might have perfectly beautiful fellatio skills or pound you to a pulp in the best way, but they are also irresponsible and you (and your body) deserve better. If you really like them (or their genitals and physical touch and want it to continue) do yourself and them a favor by insisting they get tested. If they won't, there are other fish in the sea. And at least you know what some of those other fish's STI statuses are.

The 1vyG Conference and First-Gen Issues

By LULU ZHOU

Most colleges will provide you with a more or less similar education, but they will each shape you in different ways and show you different versions of yourself.

When I chose Middlebury College, it was not because I loved Middlebury during Preview Days but because it truly overwhelmed me. The Preview Days showed me that this college probably was not for people like me: a first-gen college student, a first-gen immigrant and the first and only student from my public high school in Queens to attend. But I knew that Middlebury would push me to grow in ways I could not have imagined. (Middlebury also gave me more financial aid than the other schools I was accepted into).

In a sociology class with Professor Matt Lawrence, "Higher Education and Society," we read a paper called "The Missing 'One-Offs': The Hidden Supply of High-Achieving, Low-Income Students." Caroline Hoxby and Christopher Avery argue that the majority of low-income, first-generation students do not even apply to any selective colleges. Why not? Have they heard about colleges like Middlebury and their generous financial aid? How hard do colleges like Middlebury try to reach out to these students in the first place? The reality is that the majority of students from my high school do not know the existence and the possibility of colleges like Middlebury. Many of us did not have the socialization processes and educational resources that could help us think about the possibility of attending a prestigious college.

What happens when first-gen students actually arrive on campus? A "pre-orientation orientation" to ease the transition to an elite institution for those who identify as first-generation college students? That did not exist when I arrived at Middlebury as a first-year student during the fall of 2015. I wish it had. The MiddleView Orientation week remains one of the most overwhelming experiences of my four years at Middlebury. But I was not surprised by these feelings.

I experienced a range of psychological and emotional disorientations being in an environment so culturally, socially and socioeconomically different from my public high school—a new school, where I was a member of the first graduating class, and a school in an immigrant neighborhood in Queens. Where am I? Why am I here? How did I get into this college? These questions are common among all first-years, but for first-gen students, these questions become even more heightened at an elite space that is unfamiliar to their upbringing. I am glad that Middlebury is finally dedicating resources to create a stronger support network for first-gen students, but there is still A LOT of work to be done at Middlebury and in the higher education system as a whole.

First@Midd, the optional pre-orientation program which intends to support first-gen students' transition to Middlebury, started in 2016 as a

major addition to the First Generation Experience programming. After returning from studying abroad, I had the privilege to participate in First@Midd 3.0 as a peer leader and peer mentor for the first-gen mentorship program.

Working with a group of peers and Anderson Freeman Resource Center (AFC) staff members who care deeply about education equity was an honor. Hearing the positive feedback from these first-years about the support they received in the transition into and out of Middlebury was heart-warming. Concretely, I noticed that many of these first years expressed greater confidence in seeking out resources and opportunities and immediately jumping into leadership roles.

It made me and other first-gen seniors who knew a Middlebury without First@Midd reflect: If we had benefited from such programs since the beginning of college, where would we have been in 2015? In 2019?

Thanks to the AFC's support, Paola Meza '19, Yasmine Signey '22 and I attended the 5th annual 1vyG Conference, "From Moment to Movement: Capitalizing on our FLI Experiences to become Agents of Change in our Communities" at Princeton University this past February. FLI stands for first-generation/low-income; it is not a homogenous definition, identity, or experience. The 1vyG is a project of EdMobilizer, an activism group that aims to increase higher education resources for FLI students. These students come from a range of diverse backgrounds and tell narratives that paint a larger picture of access, equity and justice issues in the higher education system. This was the first year that Middlebury and several other liberal arts colleges were invited to attend the 1vyG Conference, which had 350 FLI students and administrators from over 30 higher education institutions.

As a first-gen senior, I deeply appreciated the opportunity to attend this conference for the first—and last—time. A major highlight was the keynote session, in which Jessica Brown and Viet Nguyen—who founded 1vyG in 2015—shared incredible insights about being first-gen students and activists who have witnessed the change in the first-gen movement.

For example, four years ago, the term and the identity "first-gen" was hardly recognized—much less, discussed. Many even thought it referred to first-gen immigrants. I also rarely thought about or discussed the concept of being a "first-gen" student. Four years ago, the term first-gen had a stronger stigma. I felt uncomfortable and even embarrassed self-identifying as a "first-gen." Four years ago, higher education institutions did not have many programs to support first-gen. Middlebury did not have any.

Raising awareness about first-gen issues has become a powerful social movement nationwide. And first-gen has transformed into an identity that many now embrace with pride. I've learned how to appreciate the extent to which this identity has motivated me

throughout all these years at Middlebury and now embrace it with pride.

However, many of the struggles first-gen students faced four years ago are still prevalent today: imposter syndrome, mental health issues, family responsibilities, lack of sense of belonging and financial strains, to name a few. As Nguyen stated, students from underrepresented backgrounds have to assimilate into the dominant social structures and cultural norms in order to succeed in college and beyond.

The question is, how do institutions change themselves to better incorporate or integrate diverse students' identities and lived experiences? What could institutions do to promote education access and equity practices?

It was an honor meeting so many inspiring and dedicated peers and allies who brought together diverse communities, shared personal and institutional struggles and uplifted each other's efforts and voices at 1vyG. I felt ambivalent when I learned that many colleges are lagging behind in their efforts to represent and support first-gen student communities as compared to Middlebury College. For example, one student group from a highly-known Ivy League university even had to fundraise to pay for their own transportation to the Princeton conference.

A peer shared an analogy of the relationship between elite higher education institutions and first-gen students: "...so they give us bikes, but they don't teach us how to ride them?" Elite colleges are increasingly admitting more students from historically underrepresented backgrounds, but what are they doing to support these students throughout their college careers? What changes are they making within their institutional and cultural structures, so that these students don't just survive, but thrive?

About a month ago, we held a debrief meeting about 1vyG at the AFC. The major initiative that the AFC is planning to launch is the First-gen Student Advisory Board, which would be able to use the AFC's resources to organize events and implement programs relevant to the first-gen community. On a larger scale, there is great potential to build a first-gen coalition among the NESCAC colleges, similar to what the Ivy League did with 1vyG. I believe that students' voices and initiatives are powerful agents of change in our communities.

In the larger picture of higher education, first-gen students at these highly prestigious and selective colleges only represent a small proportion of FLI students in the U.S. We also need to think about FLI students in public universities and community colleges as we think about higher education equity and justice issues.

Indeed, as Dafina-Lazarus Stewart, a professor of Education Studies at Colorado State University, argues, there are major differences among diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in educational spaces. Diversity asks, "Who's in the room?" Equity responds: "Who is trying to get in the room but can't? Whose presence in the room is under

constant threat of erasure?" Diversity asks, "How many more of [pick any minoritized identity] group do we have this year than last?" Equity responds, "What conditions have we created that maintain certain groups as the perpetual majority here?" Inclusion asks, "Has everyone's ideas been heard?" Justice responds, "Whose ideas won't be taken as seriously because they aren't in the majority?"

As a first-gen senior about to graduate in May, if Middlebury has taught me one thing, it's the importance of community and of giving back to community. Gradually, I have created my own community of friends, professors, and mentors who have supported me to pursue what I believe in. The community that continues to fight for a more just and equitable society has contributed to the person that I wanted to become at the end of my four years. For first-gens out there, consider reading:

<https://www.brookings.edu/bpea-articles/the-missing-one-offs-the-hidden-supply-of-high-achieving-low-income-students/>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2017/03/30/colleges-need-language-shift-not-one-you-think-essay>

Lulu Zhou is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019.

Byers Defense

(continued from Page 6)

No one has been quick to step up in Byers's defense.

Let us not forget that hate-speech and insensitivity are incomparable. We do not have a Chief Diversity Officer or Community Bias Response Team so that we can kick people out who make comments we do not like, professor or otherwise. There are anti-semitic people in this world who we will meet, and I would be hard-pressed to identify Professor Byers as one of them. The handling of this affair, though understandably difficult because of The Local Noodle's quick dissemination, is antithetical to what Middlebury stands for.

I wish this ordeal had not snowballed like it has. I wish the question had not entered the court of public opinion and that we would remember there is a person behind the chemistry question. It is time to remember that political correctness is not synonymous with goodness.

Ellis Glickman is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2022.

Rohatyn Center Student Leaders: We Oppose Legutko Lecture Sponsorship

As the Rohatyn Student Advisory Board, we would like to express our opposition to the Political Science Department (PSCI) and Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs' (RCGA) sponsorship of the lecture by Ryszard Legutko.

To quote the Open Letter to PSCI and RCGA: "By co-sponsoring a speaker who blatantly and proudly expounds homophobic, racist, xenophobic, misogynistic discourse, the RCGA is severely undermining its mission to 'build bridges across disciplines and communities.' In endorsing Legutko and the rhetoric that he embodies, the RCGA is shutting out large swaths of the Middlebury community, all of whom are engaged, critical, and rigorous thinkers whose energies would be better spent not combatting degrading and dehumanizing rhetoric."

While we were neither informed of nor involved in the decision to sponsor the event, we are acting in our fullest capacity to advise the Rohatyn Center leadership, imploring them to withdraw support and co-sponsorship. We stand in solidarity with the rest of the student leadership listed on the open letter to the RCGA and Political Science Department.

Meirily Amaral '19
Laura Dillon '19
Ben Lahey '21.5
Isabella Mauceri '20.5
Mari Odoj '20
Greg Treiman '19
Georgia Vasilopoulos '21

The above students represent all members of the Rohatyn Student Advisory Board. They serve in this role for all of the 2018-19 academic year.

The Lookbook: Parlour Salon



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By CLARK LEWIS

This week, instead of discussing an item, I will be featuring one of the new businesses in town. Parlour Salon just moved onto Main St. A short walk from campus, the salon provides hair and beauty services for the community. These services include hair styling, waxing and more.

Parlour was opened by local residents Megan Mandigo and Lisa Phelps. The two women met several years ago through their husbands, who both work with Middlebury College Athletics. Mandigo is a Middlebury alumna from California. Phelps grew up in Waitsfield, Vt. before moving to Florida and then Burlington to train as a hairstylist. After years of joking around, the two women decided to open a business. They were with their children at a local playground when they decided they would try and bring Parlour into fruition. It was a daunting task. Mandigo and Phelps have a collective five children and needed to simultaneously run their households, open a business, market their salon and hire staff when they started in 2016. The women are grateful for the support of their friends and family who helped them through the daunting task.

Having both spent parts of their lives in cities very different from Middlebury, Mandigo and Phelps wanted to create a salon with beauty services comparable to what one might find in a large city. Mandigo explained that the name was chosen because parlours tend to be spaces that people go

to feel welcome, socialize and develop community. Their clientele includes the greater Middlebury community, including college students. The town of Middlebury brings in people from all over the world and from different backgrounds, so creating a space for people to interact has been extremely important.

As residents, Mandigo and Phelps want to revitalize downtown Middlebury and add to the growing community. The salon is hiring more staff and building their clientele as they have been growing over the last few years. Parlour was previously located on Seymour St. but moved to the more central location on Main St. Mandigo mentions that, since their move, they've been welcomed by other local businesses. She describes how the business owners try to build relationships with each other by referring customers to one another. Having a strong business community has proven beneficial to the local business people and the residents.

One of my favorite parts of attending Middlebury is the intentionality of the community. During my visits to the salon, I appreciated walking into a space with familiar and unfamiliar faces who were all open to socializing and chatting. Given that salons are venues to pamper and rejuvenate the body, it is nice to see that Parlour works both for the mind and community.

Clark Lewis is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2019.

Foreign Correspondents: Returning to Childhood in Paris

By AMELIA POLLARD

There were countless things I looked forward to when preparing to study abroad in Paris, but the idea of having a semester in which I felt more like a child than I have for over a decade, was not something that had crossed my mind.

At Middlebury, the sea of 18-22-year-olds is rarely punctured by anyone under the legal marital age. Moreover, we—the budding innovators, intellectuals and entrepreneurs who will soon spill into the alumni pool of possible donors—are often in a position in which acting like a child is looked down upon.

The Center for Careers & Internships is constantly reminding us of the need to have our résumés reviewed in the hope of landing a pearly banking internship, and great-aunts and uncles pester us with questions about our future at our first autumnal family weekend. These acupuncture-like pressures can induce symptoms of anxiety, dizziness or nausea.

My first days in Paris seemed like more of the same. The city was fast-paced and the busy Parisians often curt, not wanting to deal with another American. Similar to Middlebury, everyone was rushing from point A to point B, without really thinking, feeling or slowing down to eat a baguette or sip on some vin chaud. Attending one of the grandes écoles here, SciencesPo, a university that a slew of French Prime Ministers and Presidents have attended, only heightened this sentiment of accelerated professionalism and unwavering ambition.

But in fact, this at-first hardened exterior has lent itself to innards that prove to be much softer (yes, maybe even softer than maple-candy-sweet Vermont). Part of this shift has been my own drastically altered way of thinking. After far too many years of taking French, I arrived in the country with what quickly began to feel like a child's capability of communication in comparison to native French speakers.

In beginning to really familiarize myself with living through a different language, I have found that my

mind's capacity for incisive thinking and debate had shrunk considerably. As someone who plays with too and mulls over words much too long, this has actually improved my ability to communicate concisely. Instead of getting bogged down in the jargon and BS of political science, I am forced to focus on what is concretely occurring (because I honestly can't communicate much more than that). There is no faking it when my vocabulary is approximately 1/3rd of



COURTESY PHOTO

A young Amelia Pollard '20.5 enjoys a crepe.

the size of mine in English. I am held almost eerily accountable of pure knowledge and my ability to regurgitate facts.

Even still, when cashiers, street vendors and government employees hear my American accent, they often switch to a slower tone, enunciating each word in a painful, although still helpful, way. Just this week, when the grand-parents of a three-year-old girl I babysit here arrived at the house for a visit, I realized I could process every word they were saying with ease. But wait—were they speaking like this for the preschooler or me?

The uncertainty of my language ability in comparison to that of a

small child is concerning. But this stunted feeling has in fact spiked a positive and unintended effect in which I've begun to yearn to return to this simpler and elementary era.

A paradigm shift has been set off in that my simpler thinking and speaking have seeped into my way of being. Just this afternoon, I thought I had packed a lunch that was entirely appropriate for a 20-year-old college student. Surveying the kitchen counter, I came to realize that the contents before me were laughably juvenile: a rice cake with peanut butter and banana, a yogurt, an oddly cute jar of carrot sticks and a small pouch of squeezable applesauce. I am sure that I ate this exact lunch every day of Kindergarten.

Yet, the benefits of my newfound child-like outlook aren't confined to my lunchbox. I've also found that many social interactions are tainted with an innocence. Without the immediate ability to evaluate nuance of speech or opinion, I constantly find myself giving people the benefit of the doubt.

It is at times frustrating that I can't find more descriptive adjectives for new friends' dispositions other than 'sweet,' 'kind,' or 'friendly.' But as self-deprecating of my French ability as this piece has been, I'm not entirely incapacitated. I can converse with other students in my classes and hold my own at one of my host-family's festive Sunday lunches, often accompanied with bottles of champagne, with their extended family. My slower thinking and simpler language simply force me to take a bit more time to exact what I want to say. And, in turn, to refrain from making quick or unfounded assumptions about the others I'm meeting.

Come spring, although I may not strip entirely nude and jump into the nearest park fountain as I did the first time I was in Paris (age four), I do hope to retain some of the joys I've found in being forced to act a bit more like a child.

Amelia Pollard is a member of the Middlebury College class of 2020-5

Midd Gone Wild: New Student Environmental Club Takes to the Outdoors

By MEREDITH ROBERTSON
Contributing Writer

"Most Middlebury kids are going to hike, but are they ever going to go out and hold a salamander?" mused Oscar Psychas '21, co-president of The Wild Middlebury Project, a new and quickly growing environmental club on campus.

The answer to this question, for many students, would most likely be "no." While hiking and

The focus of The Wild Middlebury Project is building a connection with place and rooting people through a relationship with the natural environment.

"This can be done through an activist, educational or hands-on approach," Psychas said. "We are trying to bring all these elements together to create meaningful experiences for people in the outdoors as well as encourage the protection of our natural lands."

The club hosts about two events

role in helping salamanders safely cross to downhill breeding sites by picking them up and placing them out of the way of passing cars.

While truly a unique hands-on experience, the event is also an example of the emphasis The Wild Middlebury Project places on fostering relationships between environmentalists at the college and environmentalists in the larger community.

"Engaging with people is a big part of this. One of the key parts of our mission is using the things we do outdoors to connect with people in the community — both kids and retirees," club member Myles Stokowski '21 said.

In the near future, upcoming events will include a BioBlitz that will take place on April 27. For those unfamiliar with this event, it is a conservation-focused activity during which participants survey an area and record the number of species found in it for a set duration of time. During this BioBlitz, iNaturalist technology will be used — an app that allows users to upload pictures of their discoveries and to connect and discuss the implications of these findings.

It is through this range of activities offered by The Wild Middlebury Project that a new kind of outlet for environmentalism is offered. Here, a sense of self, engagement with others and a love for nature all intricately intersect.

"It is so important for your place in the environment to be more than just shuffling between classes and the dining hall," said Psychas. "But rather, a way to think about the life around you and the community around you — something that really grounds you."

If you are interested in learning more about The Wild Middlebury Project, event information is available on their Facebook page which can be found at go/wild-midd. The club meets weekly at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in Coltrane Lounge, and all are welcome.



COURTESY PHOTO

Students in the Wild Middlebury Project spend a night outside, getting down and dirty with Vermont wildlife.

exploring are celebrated activities, the ability to traverse less advertised elements of Vermont may be harder to come by. What about visiting vernal pools or helping amphibians migrate at night? Students who may be interested in engaging intimately with the environment might just not know where to start. It is because of this need to engage more deeply with the natural world and to become familiar with Vermont that Psychas and Jacob Friendman '21 launched The Wild Middlebury Project.

The club was officially brought to life in Sept. 2018, and it has quickly grown to include 30 active and enthusiastic members.

per week, which range from animal-tracking excursions to learning the science behind creating maple syrup. Most recently, The Wild Middlebury Project co-hosted a wilderness survival event with the Community Friends Club. Members and Community Friend mentees built tree forts and made s'mores. Again, the goal was to connect students and young people with their local environment and to deepen their appreciation for nature.

Over the rainy weekend of April 12, the club facilitated a night trip to help aid salamander migration. During this event, club members were able to meet other fellow environmentalists from the community. The participants played a

A Piano Mastermind's College 'Finale'

By JOHN VAALER
Contributing Writer

Junya Iwata '19 plays badminton and studies psychology. He is not sure about his post-college plans yet. To an extent, he is an ordinary Middlebury student.

But when Iwata plays Chopin, the angels sing over Vermont.

Iwata's senior piano recital, "The Finale," took place in the Robison Concert Hall at the Mahaney Center for the Arts on the evening of Saturday, April 13 from 8-9 p.m. A crowd of almost 70 friends and community members came to see the performance.

Sporting a crimson shirt and black slacks, Iwata took the stage to much applause. The pianist then sat down and began with "Ballade, L. 70" by Claude Debussy (1862-1918).

Playing impressionist music, and in particular Debussy, is sometimes tricky. There are swarms of enigmatic pedal schemes and painstaking dynamics to deal with, as well as digitally demanding key signatures and scales. A piece like "Ballade, L. 70" can be quite tricky.

Iwata dominated the piece. He allowed the melody to sing clearly but also brought out the underlying jazziness of Debussy that would go on to influence Bill Evans. Iwata, a psychology major also explored the intellectual complexity of Debussy's music.

"I get so much into music that I lose thought about the real world," mused Iwata. "The more artistic a piece is, the more it can give me a different worldview."

Next up was the "Piano Sonata in A Major, D. 664" by the Austrian composer Franz Schubert (1797-1828). The energy Iwata used for Debussy's clarity was reassigned to a Romantic whirlwind of grand scales, mountainous runs and daring chords. Iwata so effectively channeled the Austrian energy of Schubert's music that one would not have been entirely surprised if mid-performance Maria Von Trapp jumped out of the piano's soundboard, making happy circles around Robison Hall.

Things took a break (but beautiful) turn when Iwata played the second movement of the "Sonata."

"I feel myself the most unfortunate, the most miserable being in the world," wrote Schubert in March 1825 after a bout of a venereal disease. One could hear the composer's underlying sadness when Iwata played the

second movement. Even the sections that paid homage to church hymnals seemed a little mournful.

Towards the middle of the Schubert Sonata, it became clear that "The Finale" was the work of a pianistic mastermind. One might have reasonably wondered, "How did Iwata become so good?"

Middlebury College Affiliate Artist Diana Fanning, Iwata's piano instructor, has some answers.

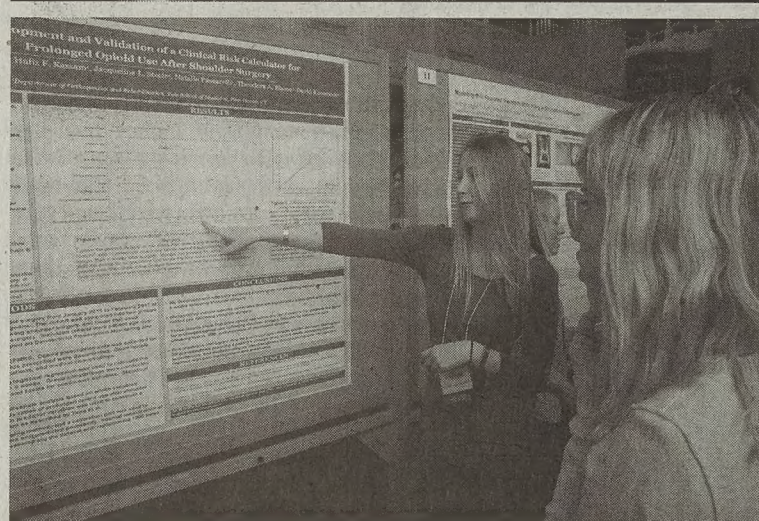
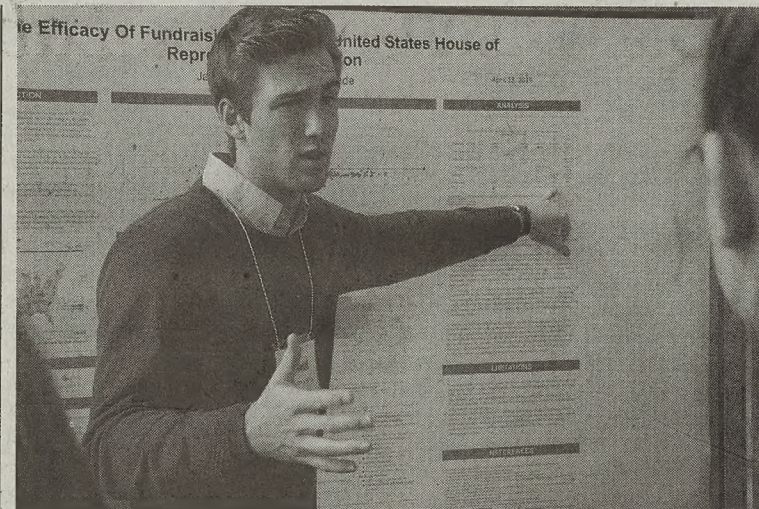
"Junya is a very talented and serious musician," she said. "However, music is a life-long study and there is always more to learn. A famous piano pedagogue once said that teachers are links in a chain of centuries of musical understanding."

The final movement of the "Sonata," an Allegro, went back to the first movement's levity but ramped up the pyrotechnics. Iwata calmly pulled five double-handed scales during this six-minute whirlwind of mischief, coolly complementing loud block chords with small, pavan-esque trills. Night may have fallen on the Mahaney Arts Center when Iwata finished the concert's first half, but the "Sonata" left Robison Hall bright and sunny for the five-minute intermission.

Vincent Falardeau '22 was impressed by the recital's first half. "I feel like all the keys sang together in perfection."

After the intermission, Iwata came out and played "Polonaise-Fantaisie in A-flat Major, Op. 61" by Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849).

Chopin has always been an in-



SPRING STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

VAN BARTH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Over 275 students presented at the annual Spring Symposium on April 12, a day filled with intellectual inquiries and inspiration.

fluence on Iwata. One of his earliest memories is of his mother playing the composer's "Minute Waltz." Later, Chopin would become the most popular composer in Iwata's repertoire.

"The way [Vladimir] Ashkenazy plays resembles most the way I play Chopin," said Iwata. "[Artur] Rubinstein is too harsh."

The above is critical in dissecting Iwata's artistry. A Rubinstein interpretation of the Polonaise-Fantaisie would have been pinpoint accurate, but perhaps a tad icy ("too harsh"). The pianist instead paid homage to Ashkenazy by using a bolder, more

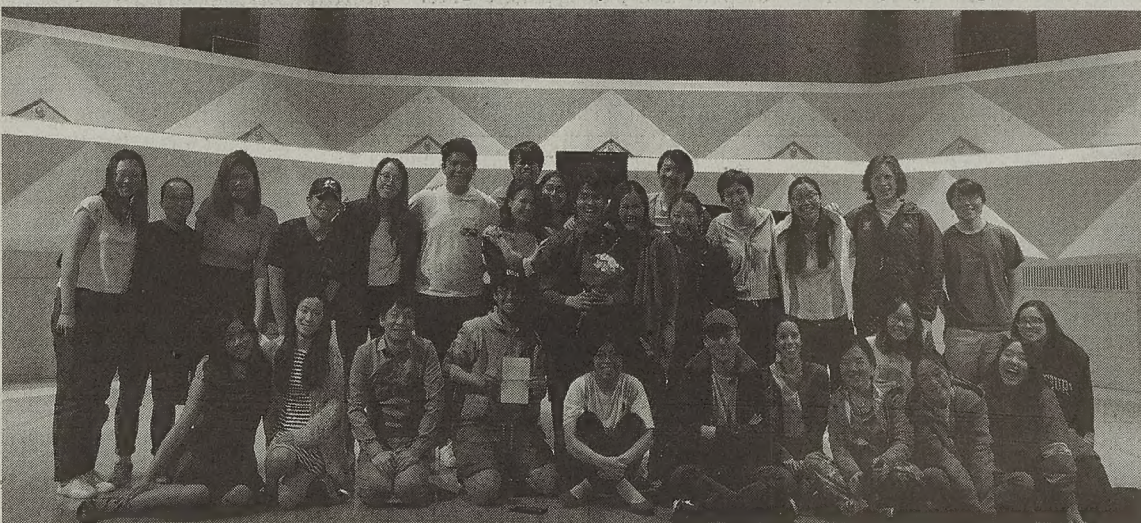
epic dynamic range. Iwata played a work written for just the solo piano, but he executed it like he was conducting the Vienna Philharmonic. This "go-big-or-go-home" interpretation of Chopin worked brilliantly. "[The Polonaise-Fantaisie] was very somber, but throughout the piece you heard light," reflected Claire Moy '22.

Moy's analysis was dead on. The Polonaise-Fantaisie constantly fluxed from pastoral joie de vivre to downright Armageddon — one moment things were George Eliot; the next, T.S. Eliot. Iwata played the last lines with unbridled passion, his quick fingers spiraling across the keyboard.

After the Chopin, a standing ovation lauded Iwata.

"Phenomenal!" roared Allan Lei '21. An encore ended the evening with a dash of jazz: the pianist chose Prelude No. 1 in B-flat Major by George Gershwin (1898-1937). In under three minutes, Iwata's playing transported the rural Vermont audience to a 1920s Manhattan teeming with car horns, traffic lights and skyscrapers.

Middlebury resident Steve Butterfield left Iwata's recital with a grin on his face: "You know how great the weather was today? The concert was just as great."



COURTESY PHOTO

Junya Iwata '19 (center) gathered with his friends on the stage of Robison Hall after his "Finale."

Panel Discusses Sex, Labor Trafficking Locally and Globally

By **MONIQUE SANTOSO**
Online Editor

Human trafficking is a universal issue, not just one which happens in developing countries. On Tuesday, April 9, Middlebury's Stop Traffick Club presented a panel which educated the Middlebury College community on some different perspectives on human trafficking, with local, academic and global takes on the issue.

The panel, titled, "Breaking the Bonds of Modern Slavery: Perspectives on Human Trafficking," included Darlene Pawlik, sex trafficking survivor and now advocate from New Hampshire, Sarah Stroup, Associate Professor of Political Science at Middlebury and Princy Prasad, grant writer and graphic designer for Nomi Network.

The panel was moderated by

Madeleine Tango '21.5, president of Stop Traffick who stated that the panel was "crucial to engage the campus community on the imminent dangers of trafficking, its causes and what students can do to fight against modern-day slavery."

Treasurer Spencer Royston '21 said that "human trafficking is an issue that is so hidden from our daily lives, and government agencies are not doing enough to see this as an important issue in terms of the laws that are currently in place."

He believes that as a campus, we should be addressing this issue more fervently, as human trafficking is a million-dollar industry. He added that panels like these are platforms that empower survivors to tell their story and support them, as well as organizations that are doing more for them like

Nomi Network, a partner of the Stop Traffick Club at Middlebury.

The panel began by explaining human trafficking and its various manifestations, from sex trafficking, to organ trafficking, to labor trafficking. The issue roots itself in the action of harboring and transporting human beings with force, promise or coercion.

Prasad shed light on how the problem is deeply rooted in culture in countries like Cambodia and India where child marriage and the caste system are still in place.

"If I send my daughter off, then they will be someone else's problem," Prasad said. "This is a cultural mindset that prevents girls from having their own freedom and rights."

"It is the fastest growing commercial enterprise today. However, since it takes so many shapes, governments often miscalculate the numbers of how many victims there actually are," Pawlik said.

The panel also discussed the role of globalization and fast-fashion in the growth of the human trafficking industry. The growing demands of the fashion industry in keeping up with changing trends create an increased need for a greater supply of clothes production, and globalization has made outsourcing of labor incredibly easy for businesses.

Nonetheless, it is important for consumers like us to be conscious of where our clothes come from. Pawlik and Prasad asked the audience to use the mobile application "My Slavery Footprint" when going to a store to purchase goods. Moreover, they acknowledged the issue of choice and how it truly is

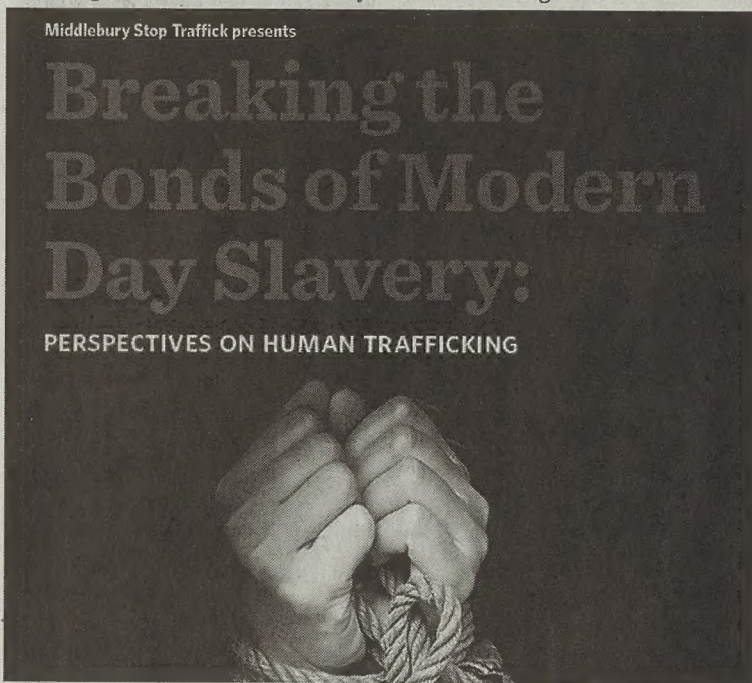
a privilege to be able to be mindful of what one purchases, knowing that those who live in poverty do not have the choice of choosing what is consciously-made over what is cheap.

"Anyone anywhere can be a victim of human trafficking," Pawlik said. She called on college students and their ability to be conscious of and fight against human trafficking, which can start by calling out stores and companies that may not be complying with ethical standards of production through social media such as Twitter and Facebook. Informed

activism through connections with local organizations is also a step in the right direction to take action.

In the end, Professor Stroup highlighted the importance of law enforcement in seeing and recognizing that trafficked persons are victims and not criminals, so as to promote a more conducive environment to combat human trafficking in a hyper-local level.

To learn more about human trafficking, attend Stop Traffick Club's weekly meetings at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays in the LaForce Lounge.



COURTESY PHOTO

Middlebury Stop Traffick is a social justice-oriented student organization that aims to combat sex trafficking and modern day slavery.

Reel Critic: 'Ash is Purest White'

By **QIAN LI**
Senior Writer

A few weeks ago, I watched a film with a friend at Film Society of Lincoln Center in New York. As we walked out of the cinema, I realized my eyes were dry from tearing up so much in the dark. My friend laughed at me quite heartlessly, though later she admitted shedding tears during the screening as well.

The film was "Ash is Purest White," a 2018 drama film written

and directed by Jia Zhangke, one of the leading figures of the Sixth Generation of Chinese cinema. Like several of Jia's recent features including "24 City," "A Touch of Sin" and "Mountains May Depart," "Ash is Purest White" centers on marginalized characters who have no power over their individual lives as China enters the capitalist market and undergoes fundamental changes in its society.

In Jia's typical semi-documentary style, the film unfolds the journey of Qiao (played by Zhao Tao), a quick-witted young woman, who saves the life of Bin, her gangster boyfriend, only to later discover his betrayal after she spends five years in jail in his place. The open-

ing scene, in which the camera casually skims over passengers on a bus, takes the audience back in 2001 with old grainy footages shot in a 4:3 frame. Situated in Datong, a northern mining city that is changing drastically, the first part of "Ash is Purest White" captures the absurdity of an old-fashioned underworld at its finest. When one of the gangsters aims the gun at another over a petty argument, the mob boss, Bin, simply appeases them with the presence of a gold statue

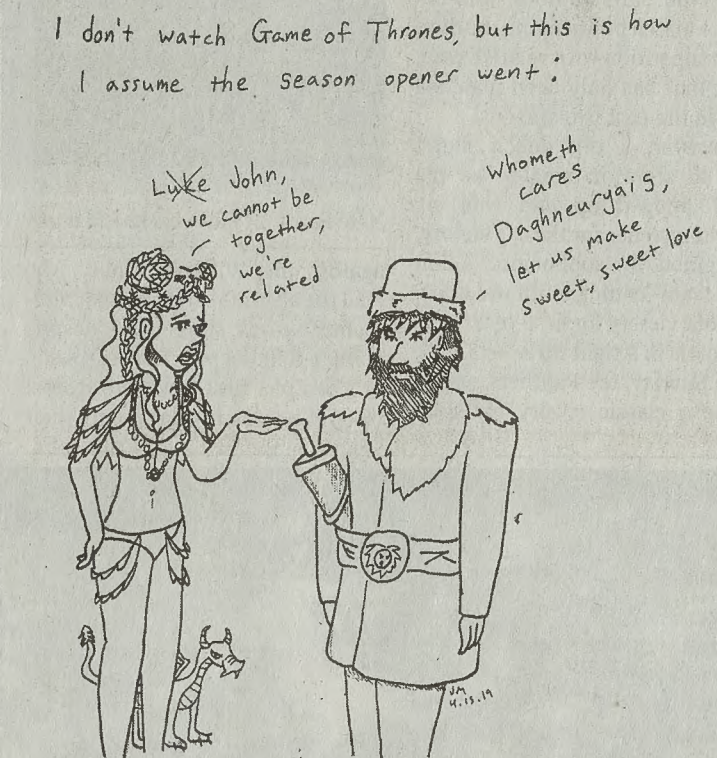
be appreciated in this world. Even though Qiao is in a romantic relationship with this dangerously charming gangster, she does not quite understand how to navigate in jianghu and dreams of settling down with Bin one day in Xinjiang, a vast northwestern region in China. Therefore, it is not surprising that Qiao has to be the one who fires the gun to scare off a young rising gang that violently attacks Bin and claims the illegal gun only to receive nothing except for life behind the bars.

Five years later, in a ship on Yangtze River to Fengjie, Qiao embarks on her search for Bin. We hear the tour guide introducing the Three Gorges Dam project over the speaker, a real-life large-scale building project that resulted in rising water levels and resettlement of residents along the Yangtze River. Not only does this situate the audience within a larger historical context, the changes brought by the massive waves of construction

also reflect the important personal changes Qiao has undergone in prison and her uncomfortable readjustment back into society. The scene where Qiao goes to the company of a previous gangster is full of displacement in time and space. Waving at the glass door several times, Qiao eventually gets frustrated by the unopened door that rejects her unwelcoming presence in this new world where Bin resides. It is only later when the receptionist opens the door from inside that Qiao gets a glimpse of the company and puts a plastic water bottle between the shutting doors. The squeezed and deformed water bottle mirrors Qiao's situation in re-entering the society.

of Guan Er Ye, an ancient general who was later regarded as a god-like figure of war. Gathered in a karaoke club, the gangsters pour nine different types of alcohol in one vessel before each scooping a bowl of the mixed drink to celebrate "loyalty and righteousness" in the underworld. Shortly after a member's death, two fully dressed dancers are invited to perform ballroom dancing at the funeral in the dead's honor.

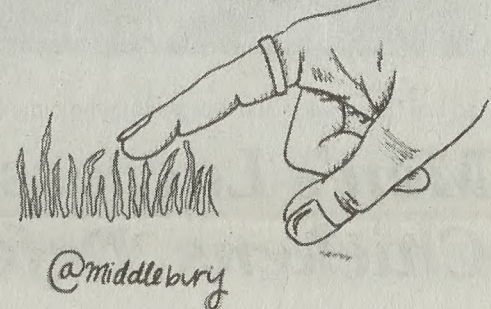
All of those scenes contribute to bringing forward a real presence of the modern Chinese underworld, also known as jianghu, that may or may not be familiar to the audience. There are certain rules to be learned and values to



JENNY MOSS

SPRING: THE SEASON IN WHICH VEGETATION BEGINS TO APPEAR

THE SNOW MELTED ENOUGH TO SHOW SOME DEAD GRASS! IT'S SPRING!



SARAH FAGAN



COHEN MEDIA GROUP

Zhao Tao and Fan Liao play Qiao and Bin, the stars of Jia Zhangke's latest feature "Ash is Purest White."

and directed by Jia Zhangke, one of the leading figures of the Sixth Generation of Chinese cinema. Like several of Jia's recent features including "24 City," "A Touch of Sin" and "Mountains May Depart," "Ash is Purest White" centers on marginalized characters who have no power over their individual lives as China enters the capitalist market and undergoes fundamental changes in its society.

In Jia's typical semi-documentary style, the film unfolds the journey of Qiao (played by Zhao Tao), a quick-witted young woman, who saves the life of Bin, her gangster boyfriend, only to later discover his betrayal after she spends five years in jail in his place. The open-

What fascinates me about Qiao's character is her refusal to disclose her emotions on the screen. In a way, we never quite get to see her tears, and that emotional repression only adds to the poignancy in the scene when she confronts Bin with his betrayal. Qiao realizes that he has forgotten about their past and moved on to a new chapter of his life. She walks to the door and leaves her back to the audience. Her quivering shoulders are all we get. Just as her quivering eyelashes are depicted later in the film when she closes her eyes saying she has no feelings left for Bin, there is something touching about Zhao's performance that does not downplay the character but rewards the audience with the slightest trace of her emotions.

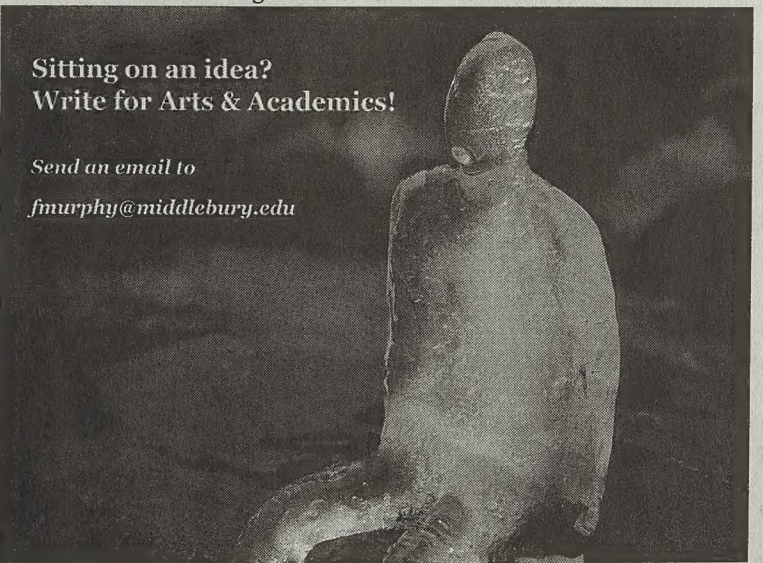
Throughout the film, more often than not, the scene is tinged with different shades of green such

as the furniture, the window frame and even the water flowing in a painting on the wall, etc. The color green is so vividly prevalent in not only "Ash is Purest White" but also many of Jia's films that it is impossible not to notice. While this hue of green does add to the underworld feeling with an implied messy, murky chaos, it also transfixes the audience to the early time period portrayed in the film with nostalgia. It is almost always that Jia's films present more than one time frame in modern China and fixate back in time as if the filmmaker himself lives in the past.

The final scene of the film recalls the opening scene. The audience sees Qiao through a security monitor, leaning against a wall. Blurring the line between past and present, the film leaves the audience to ponder upon this lingering question of time.

**Sitting on an idea?
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**DON'T
MISS
THIS**

NER Presents Three New Fiction Writers

NER presents a reading with three new fiction writers: Brad Felter, whose debut collection of stories, *The Dogs of Detroit*, won the 2018 Drue Heinz Literature Prize; David Moats, a well-known Vermont journalist whose new fiction appears in the current issue of NER; and Kylie Winger, a Middlebury College senior and Bread Loaf Writers' Conference alum.

Thursday, 4/18, 7-8 p.m., The Vermont Bookshop

The Mammals

This Americana quintet is known for just the right amount of guitar grit, soothing harmony, barn-burning fiddle, retro grooves, and storytelling savvy. They're equal parts musicians and activists. Their campus show will include selections from newest album *Sunshiner*, highlighting issues surrounding climate change.

Friday, 4/19, 7:30-9 p.m., Robison Hall

Ways to School

Inspired by the well known transmedia project "Sur les chemins de l'école, Ways to School-VR" offers the viewer to accompany the children through the lens of their fertile imagination. Follow a 12-year-old boy living in the occupied West Bank and explore his world through his daily journey and the fear and beauty of walking for a long distance in order to get to school.

Tuesday, 4/23, 4:30-6 p.m., MAC 125

Men's Tennis Takes Weekend vs. Tufts and Williams

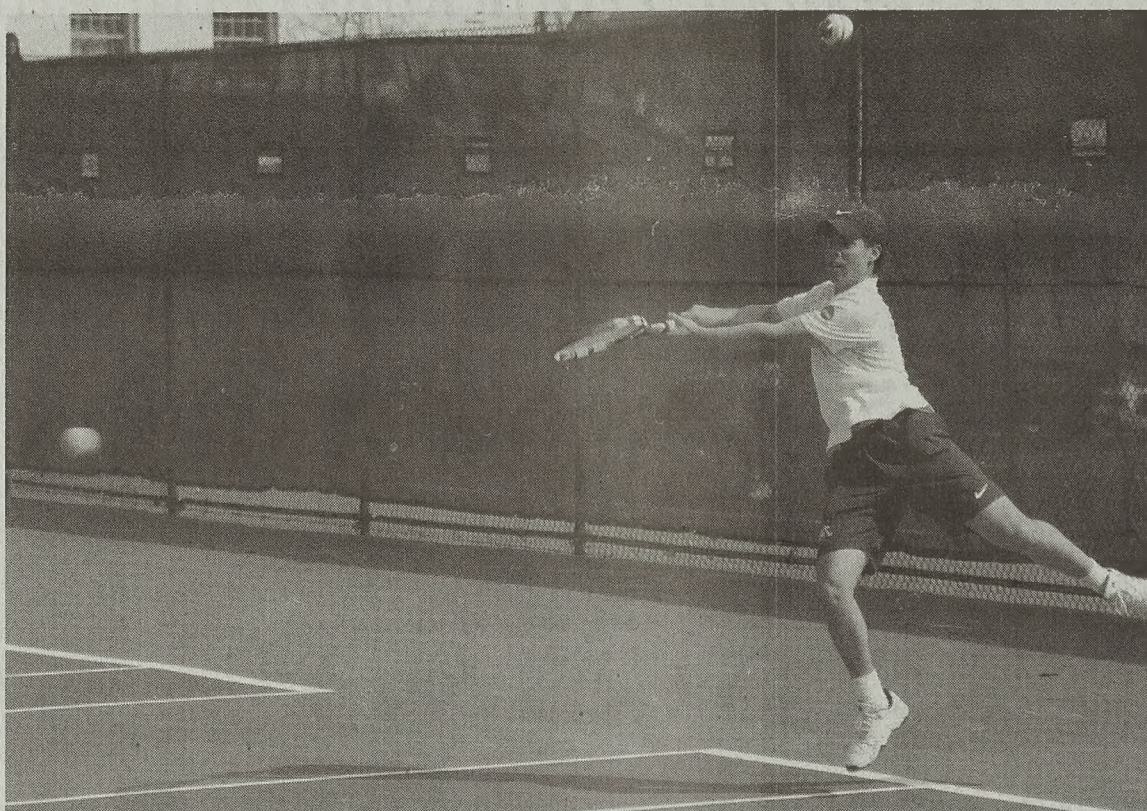
By JACK KAGAN
Senior Writer

After tough losses to No. 3 Emory and No. 5 Wesleyan, Panther men's tennis stormed back in a big way last weekend with a nailbiter win over No. 10 Williams, in addition to a 6-3 victory over No. 18 Tufts. Middlebury tumbled down the rankings last week after an upset from then No. 7 Wesleyan, while Williams dropped from No. 5 to No. 10 following a loss to newly crowned No. 1 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps.

Currently, half of the top 10 in the country are NESCAC teams, and this strong level of play was on display at the Proctor Tennis Courts for the second weekend in a row. On Saturday, Middlebury hosted the Tufts Jumbos, who began the match by sweeping the doubles competition with relative ease, a feat that has only been matched twice in the past two seasons.

However, a 0-3 deficit didn't seem to show in singles, as the squad stepped up and won six straight matches for the 6-3 victory, highlighted by sophomore Adam Guo's team-leading tenth win and a breakout victory for first-year Stanley Morris in a tight three sets.

On Sunday, the Panthers geared up for a classic rivalry matchup



Nate Eazor '21 hits a backhand during the match against No. 18 Tufts, bringing the team to a 6-3 victory.

against the Williams Ephs, who lead the all-time series against Middlebury 40-22 since 1920, despite going 1-8 in the past five seasons.

The Ephs' best win came against No. 5 Wesleyan the day before their

meeting with the Panthers, despite air-tight losses to No. 2 University of Chicago as well as Claremont and Emory. Middlebury would end the Ephs' good fortune, however, starting with the lone doubles win

from co-captains Peter Martin '19 and Noah Farrell '19 to stave off another 0-3 initial deficit. This marks a team-leading ninth win for the duo.

Farrell continued his excellence

in both doubles and singles, with a 6-0, 6-0 shutdown of Ephs junior Ananth Raghavan. Other highlights include a solid straight set victory from Nate Eazor '21, who has been splitting time as the #6 singles spot, but emerged with a spotless record on the weekend.

After the 1-2 start in doubles, the Panthers found themselves knotted at 4-4 with sophomore Andre Xiao battling against Williams senior captain Deepak Indrakanti. Xiao has matured nicely in his second season, posting a 9-4 record out of the middle of the ladder after competing mainly out of the #5 and #6 spots last season. He didn't let the pressure get to him either, as he clinched the match with a 6-3 win in the third set.

The Panthers have only preserved their ranking with the two wins, but have the opportunity to move back up this weekend on the road against No. 4 Bowdoin. One of the most heated rivalries in the program, the Panthers defeated the Bears 5-3 in last year's NCAA Division III Championship. The Polar Bears have suffered only two blows to their record this season; Middlebury getting a win under their belt would help the Panthers on their journey back into the top five nationally.



A.J. Kucinski '20 had three assists and four goals in the game against Trinity on Saturday, April 13.

Men's Lacrosse Cooks the Chickens, Defeats Trinity

By BOBBY SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

After a successful mid-week game against Springfield College, where Middlebury won 15-7, the Panthers tried to ride that momentum into their NESCAC showdown against Trinity on Saturday, April 13. With their highest attendance of the season and a number of Midd alumni coming out to show their support, the Panthers proved how good they can be in a 22-6 triumph over the Bantams. They now hold an even 4-4 record in NESCAC play and remain in the middle of the pack going into the final weekend of play.

Whether it was the surprisingly beautiful weather or the excitement of alumni weekend, Middlebury came out of the gate firing on all cylinders. At the 12:48 mark of the first, Tyler Forbes, leading scorer of the team, found the back of the net on an outstanding shot

that earned a loud cheer from the 367 people in attendance. From then on, the Panthers did not stop. Goals from six different Panthers, including three from Forbes, gave Midd a very comfortable 8-0 lead at the end of the first quarter. This was easily their best start to a game and largest lead of the season.

Trinity did not get their first goal up on the board until the 10:41 mark of the second, coming from a man-up situation. Although Middlebury was limited to just two goals, they still held a commanding 10-3 lead going into half. In the third, the scoring appeared to be pretty back and forth, with goals coming from four different Panther players again. The combination of stifling defense and a well-balanced offense was key to Midd's success throughout the entirety of the game.

In the fourth quarter, even though the game was practically over already, Middlebury never

let up. Again, they rallied off eight straight goals and the defense stood their ground. The final score was 22-6.

Tyler Forbes led the scoring with five goals, while juniors Chase Goree and A.J. Kucinski, had four of their own. Sophomore Ryan Feldman, played big minutes and had two assists on the day. In goal, Tyler Bass certainly had one of the best performances of the year. In 52:48 minutes, Bass had 12 saves on 18 attempts. He has moved to 2-0 on the year behind the net.

Although this win was big for the Panthers, their upcoming schedule will prove just how strong they really are. On Wednesday, April 17 Midd travels to Plattsburgh St. to play a non-conference match. This weekend, they will travel to Medford, MA to take on the No. 4 Tufts Jumbos (11-1), arguably their biggest matchup of the year.

Baseball Goes 1-2 for Weekend, Beats Dartmouth Tuesday



At 43 plate appearances, Alec Ritch '22 has hit a batting average of .302.

By ISABELLA MARCUS
Staff Writer

The baseball team (15-8, 3-3) capped the week with a 2-2 record, unable to hold off the Williams College Ephs (3-3, 16-5) in the final game of the week, dropping the rubber match of the series 5-4 in extra innings on Saturday, April 13.

Strong pitching resulted in a mid-week 12-2 win for the Panthers on Forbes Field versus Northern Vermont University (10-17, 5-3) on Thursday, April 11.

Leading off the inning, sophomore first baseman Ryan Hanrahan got things rolling in the bottom of the second with a single. First-year right fielder Alec Ritch reached base on a single and first-year shortstop Andrew Gough delivered a two-run double to left center to give Middlebury the lead.

Northern Vermont responded in the top of the third, tying the game up at 2-2, but the Panthers restored a 5-2 lead in the bottom of the inning. The Hornets were unable to respond the rest of the game with the Panthers plating two more runs in the fourth inning, two in the fifth, one in the sixth, and finally two in the seventh.

Gough led the team, going three-for-five with five RBIs and junior left fielder stole two bases. First-year pitcher Jackson Atwood started on the mound for the Panthers, going four innings with four strikeouts. First-year Sam Grace received his second career win on one inning of work, facing four and striking out one.

According to first-year outfielder Jack Stolper, the team was able to adjust well.

"A lot of our success comes from our approach at the plate," Stolper said. "When we change our approach from hitting fly balls to hitting hard ground balls and line drives, we score and drive in more runs. When we try and lift the ball too much in the air, we tend to fly out a lot more and make it much easier on the defense."

In a three-game series versus NESCAC West opponent, the Panthers dropped down to second place in the conference after going 1-2 on the weekend. Middlebury dropped the first game 2-1 on Friday, April 12 before splitting a double-header with a 10-0 win and a 5-4 loss in 10 innings at the nightcap on Saturday, April 13.

In Game one, the Ephs jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second, after a scoreless first inning from both squads. The Panthers got on the scoreboard in the top of the fourth when sophomore center fielder Henry Strmecki lead off with a double down the left-field alley. Junior second baseman was walked to put a man on first and second and junior third baseman Hayden Smith hit a sacrifice bunt to

advance runners to scoring position. Junior first baseman Kevin Woodring cut the deficit to 2-1 with an RBI single.

The Panthers struggled to match the performance of senior starting pitcher Colby Morris, who suffered his first loss of the season, after facing 29 batters and striking out a season-high eight and only surrendering one earned run. Sophomore George Goldstein added two innings of scoreless relief.

In Game two, the Ephs were unable to put up a run over nine innings. Middlebury broke out with an early 2-0 lead in the top of the third. The Panthers added five runs in the fifth, to bring the lead to 7-0. Senior designated hitter Sam Graf drove in a runner on an RBI double to left center. An Ephs error allowed a run for Middlebury, along with a two run homerun from Woodring.

First-year pitcher Alex Price threw six innings of one-hit relief to earn the win over Williams, striking out two batters.

The Panthers dropped Game three to the fourth ranked NESCAC West Ephs in walk-off fashion, 5-4, to close the series at Williams.

Middlebury trailed 3-0 after the first but took a 4-3 lead after the fourth inning. Junior catcher Gray Goolsby finished three-for-five with three stolen bases and a run scored and Han went two-for-five with a pair of doubles, two stolen bases and two RBIs.

With his 42nd career stolen base, Han became Middlebury's all-time leader in stolen bases. Han also hit .412 last week for the Panthers and surpassed 100 career hits.

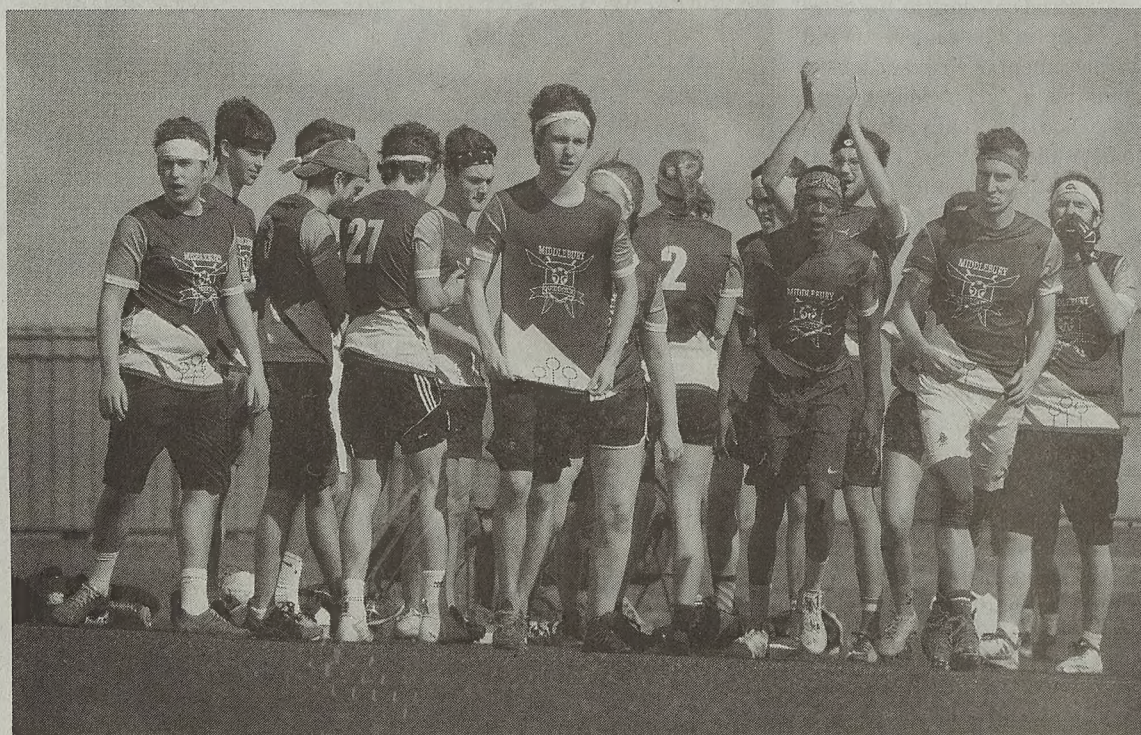
Senior pitcher Colin Waters took the mound in the first six innings, striking out seven. Sophomore Bobby Sullivan took his first loss of the season with two innings pitched and three strikeouts.

In Game three, Middlebury achieved a season-best nine stolen bases, with 90 on the season, a new school record.

Most recently, Middlebury traveled to face Division I Dartmouth College (11-19, 5-7) out of the Ivy League and won 15-7. They will follow this win with another midweek matchup versus Plattsburgh State (7-15, 3-9) on Wed., April 17 at home. Finally, the Panthers will face top-seeded NESCAC West opponent, Amherst College (14-8, 5-4) starting Friday, April 19.

"We are going into the rest of NESCAC play confident," Stolper said. "We need to play our game and start driving the ball on the ground or on a line. We have been making it too easy on our defenders by hitting too many balls in the air. A big thing for us going into NESCAC play is to challenge defenses by putting balls hard and in play."

Quidditch Caps Historic Nationals Weekend



COURTESY PHOTO

The Middlebury Quidditch team traveled to Round Rock, Texas for their first national tournament, the US Quidditch Cup 12 on April 13-14. The team went into the tournament ranked 12th and ultimately placed 11th with a 1-3 final record. According to team member Evan Killion '21, the Panthers had close losses against Baylor and Duke because "[they had] different play styles than we're used to."

Women's Lacrosse on Fire, Continues 11-0 Streak

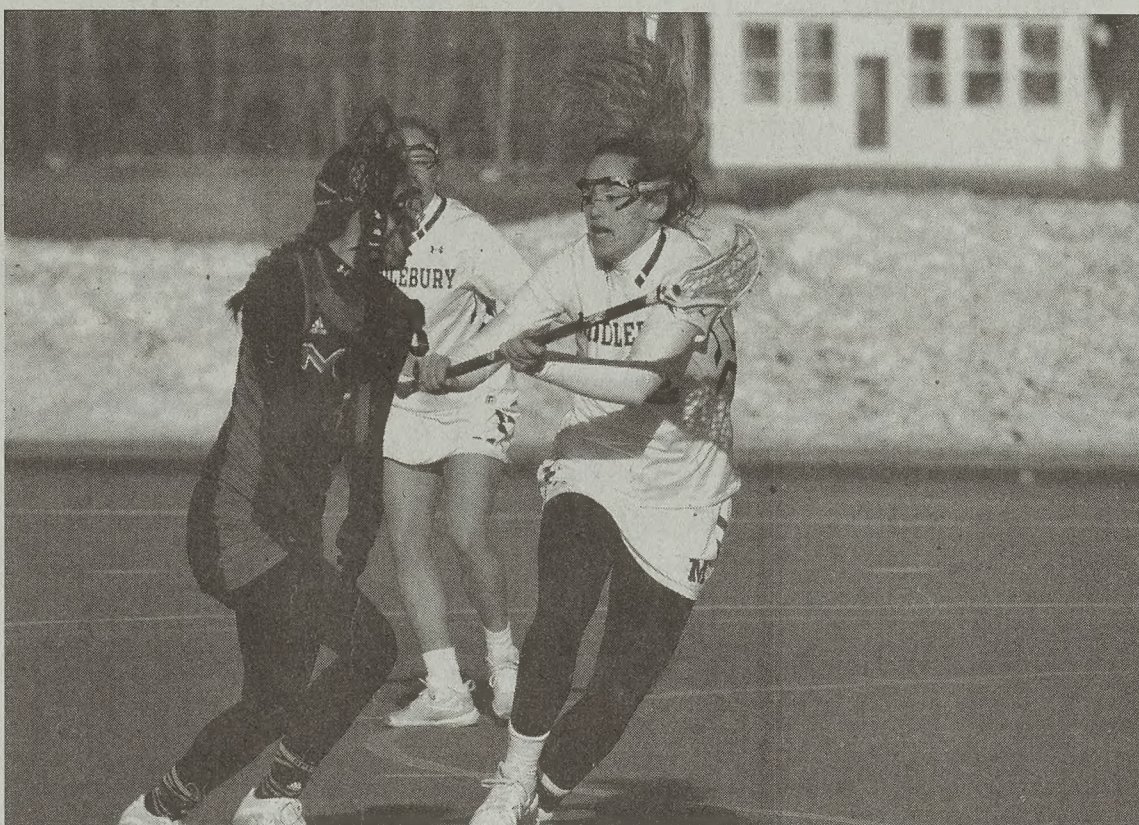
By LAUREN BOYD
Senior Writer

The Panther women's lacrosse team moved to an 11-game win streak, picking up two conference wins this past weekend against Trinity and Hamilton, scoring double digits against two impressive teams. Moving forward, the Panthers are on a blazing trail, hoping to close out the season against Tufts and Williams.

Against Trinity, the No. 3 Panthers cruised into a 7-0 record versus nationally-ranked opponents, beating the No. 12 Bantams 14-8. While the score was tight for most of the game, a spur of Middlebury scoring brought the Panthers the victory.

Senior captain Emma McDonagh '19 started off the scoring events with a 2-for-2 bout against Trinity's Mary French. After the teams netted the game at 2-2, McDonagh connected with the back of the net for another goal, heating up the Panther offense. Trinity soon gained momentum back, which created a small 2-3 goal gap between the teams.

The second half, however, proved the Panthers' resilience. Emily Barnard, Jenna McNicholas and Kirsten Murphy led the Panthers to an 11-6



Gracie Getman '21 has a 100 percent shots on goal percentage, completing 11 out of 11 overall attempts.

score, which was then furthered by additional goals on the part of McNicholas. While the Bantams tried to push back, the stellar Middlebury

defense held on for a 14-8 win.

The next day, the Panthers also beat No. 24 Hamilton, with a 13-9 final score. Middlebury created an

impressive gap in the beginning of the game, setting off the score to 7-2 before the half. The Continentals never caught up to the Panther offense,

always in a point deficit that could not be erased.

Jane Earley had an impressive game, putting up seven points (three goals, four assists), while McDonagh also continued her scoring streak to 40 games. Erin Nicholas won the draw eight times, setting up Panther control.

Looking forward, ending the regular season on two conference wins is key for the team's post-season. With the potential of this year's squad, Middlebury is looking to work towards ending the regular season well, as a testament to their hard work and strengths.

"We are looking forward to a challenge in the last two games of the regular season. One of the main things we are working on is decreasing the number of turnovers," senior Sara DiCenso said. "One of our strengths is that we have many people who can score and contribute to our offense. On the other side of the field, our backer defense is high pressure and we have done a good job of winning the ball back."

If the Panthers can decrease turnovers, keep up the defensive pressure and continually connect with the back of the net, their post-season will be an extension of the regular season's success.

Track and Field Women Place First, Men Second at Silfen Invitational

By JORDAN HOWELL
Senior Writer

The Middlebury track and field team continued its dominance during the Silfen Invitational on Friday, April 12 and Saturday, April 13. The men came in second place, and the women came in first.

Nathan Hill '20 said, "I thought the team performed really well this weekend. Everyone seemed to meet or exceed expectations and momentum is definitely moving in the right direction as we approach NES-CACs."

The men finished with a total of 85.5 points, while Worcester Polytechnic Institute won with 97.5 points. The Panthers had several crucial performances at this meet. Nick Hendrix '20 captured fourth in the 100 meter dash with a time of 11.05. Hill finished in a time of 1:53.53 to score second in the 800 meter run. Jon Perlman '19 came in

first in the 1500 meter run, finishing with a time of 3:53.44. A time of 57.21 allowed Jonathan Fisher '20 to come in second in the 400 meter hurdles. Theo Henderson '20 participated in the 3000 meter steeplechase and finished with a time of 9:19.96 to get third place. It is also important to mention that the Middlebury "A" team finished in second place in the 4x400 meter relay. This team was composed of Arden Coleman '20, William Robertson '21, Josh Howard '19 and Jimmy Martinez '19. Minhaj Rahman '19 also netted first place in the hammer throw event with a throw of 57.39 meters.

The women finished with a grand total of 116 points. Point earners included Alex Cook '20 who participated in the 200 meter dash and finished third with a time of 26.45. In the 800 meter run, Meg Wilson '20 was able to finish with a time of 2:15.48 which got her second place. Abigail Nadler '19 netted first place

in the 1500 meter run by finishing with a time of 4:35.22. Rory Kelly '20 came in first in the 5000 meter run with a time of 17:22.29. Kate MacCary '19 captured a first place spot in the 10000 meter run with a time of 36:12.06.

Of her first place finish, MacCary said, "I am very happy with [the] time and effort I put forth in the race this past Friday night. This race was actually my first-ever 10k on the track, and I'm excited that I was able to have a strong debut in the event. [It] was wonderful to have the support of my teammates for the entire 36-plus minute race. Given that I am novice in the 10k, I was not at all expecting to go below 36:30."

"My teammates who I do a majority of training with — Abigail Nadler and Rory Kelly — also had phenomenal performances in the 1500m run and the 5k respectively," further mentioned MacCary. "It was awesome to have our strong senior

women training group pick up event wins in the 1500, 5k and 10k races. I am so grateful we can train together in the coming weeks to chase after our goals and improve in our signature events."

The Middlebury "A" team finished with a time of 3:57.41 to get second place in the 4x400 meter relay. This team was composed of Lucy Lang '19, Ava O'Mara '21, Julia Munz '22 and Gretchen McGrath '21. It is also important to mention that Rebecca Gorman '20 came in third in the javelin throw event, Simone Ameer '21 came in fourth in the triple jump event and Cook came in first in the long jump event.

The two upcoming meets are the Larry Ellis Invitational on Friday, April 19 and the Williams Invitational on Saturday, April 20. Even with these meets ahead, the minds of the track and field team members are also on the quickly arriving NES-CACs.

Hill mentioned, "NESCACs only comes to our home track once every 11 years, so there is so much excitement surrounding the event. We are all looking forward to the chance to compete in front of our friends, family and Middlebury community."

"This upcoming weekend will be a tune-up for many team members and a chance for teammates to put forth a qualifying time for the conference championship and the DIII New England Championship," MacCary said. "We will prepare for this coming weekend and the fast-approaching championship season by focusing on having strong practices, as well as recovering well from these workouts with proper sleep and recovery modalities. We will also look to strengthen our bonds and team dynamics to make sure we can arrive at these meets as the most cohesive and supportive squad we can possibly be. Exciting things are on the horizon for track and field."

Softball Splits Wednesday's Doubleheader, Sweeps Wesleyan Over the Weekend

By MAX PADILLA
Photo Editor

Last week, when asked about softball's recent defeats, captain Irene Margiotta '19 said that the team was "young but extremely talented [...] and we are looking forward to giving it our all in the next few conference weekends to come." Margiotta and the rest of the team lived up to the mindset as the Panthers demonstrated strong performances this week, winning four of their five games.

On Wednesday, April 10, they competed in a double-header (both games rescheduled from late March) against Keene State. The team won the first game by the skin on their teeth as Keene let both Emily Moore '21 and Melanie Mandell '20 walk. However, they lost the second game 13-9 in only five innings. The game started off looking great for the home team,

as the women scored five runs in the first inning. The Owls, thirsty for a win scored six runs in the second inning and four in the third, giving them a lead that the Panthers weren't able to catch up to.

But the Panthers brought it back strong in a series against Wesleyan this past weekend. Middlebury crushed the Cardinals 19-6, scoring 13 runs in the final two innings of the game. They carried that success into their next two games. The women won 3-2 in the morning and 4-1 in the afternoon. On Saturday morning the women started out strong, completing a run at the top of the first thanks to a single from Rookie Sophie Bolinger and a triple from Mandell. Caroline Thacker '21 amazed us all, pitching five shutout innings.

Mandell represented the Panthers well, earning herself the title of NESCAC Player of the Week. In the Wesleyan series her hit per-

centage was at 67%, making eight of her 12 at bats. Mandell also managed to achieve an on base percentage of 71% — an amazing feat. Bolinger also made key plays this week in both the Keene and Wesleyan series. Her bunt Friday against Wesleyan loaded the bases and allowed the women to get three runs at the top of the second. She also helped load the bases in Middlebury's second game last week against Keene, contributing to the five run lead they earned in the first inning.

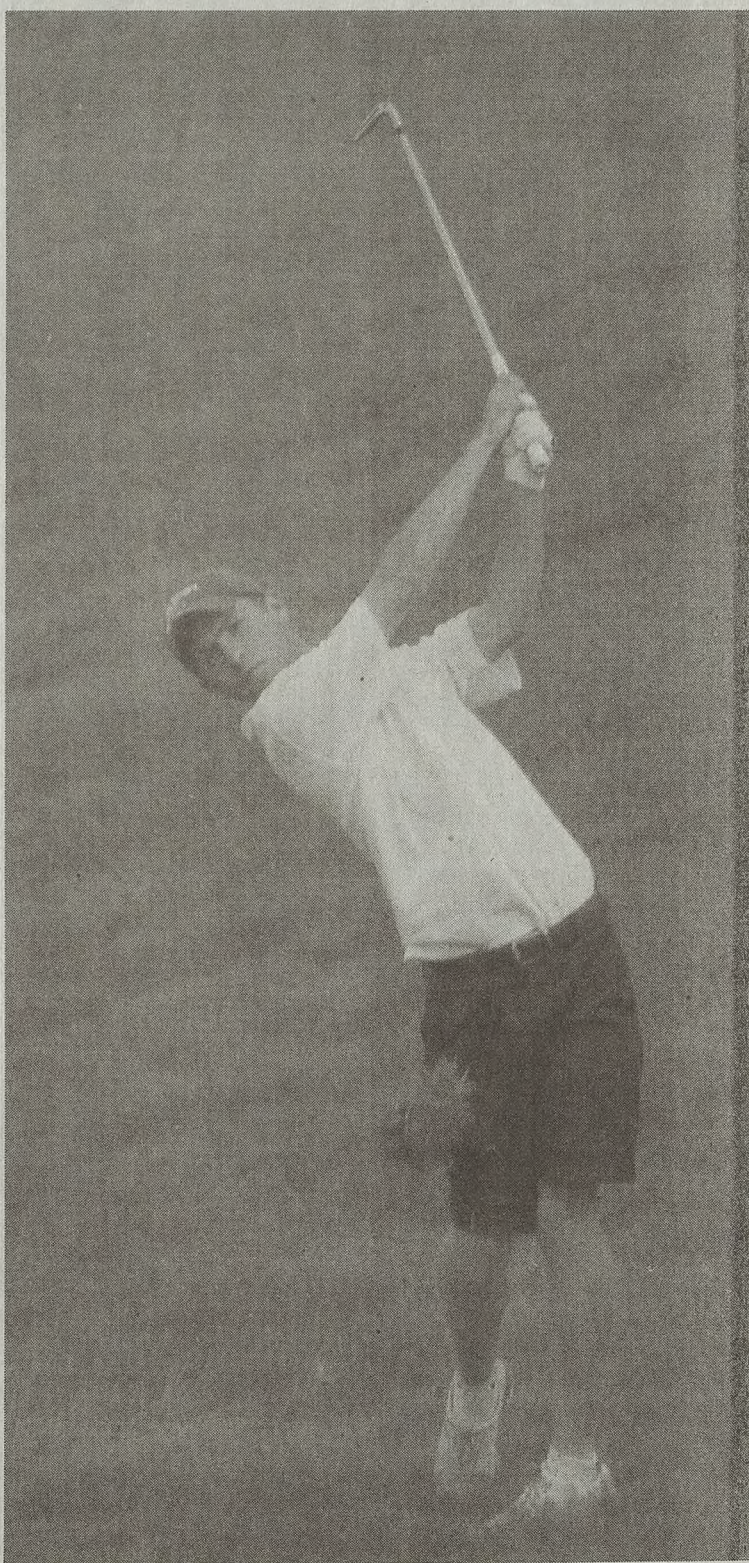
The Panthers will play two games against Union college on Wednesday, April 17. They will also head into a series against Hamilton this weekend. The Hamilton games will not be won without a fight. Although Middlebury generally beats Hamilton, a clean sweep will be critical for the team this weekend.



Irene Margiotta '19 has pitched 78 innings this year and has earned herself an 8-5 win-loss record.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Men's Golf Conquers Dr. Tim Brown Invitational



COURTESY PHOTO

Middlebury men's golf tied for first this past weekend at the Dr. Tim Brown Invitational held at the Ballston Spa Country Club in New York. The Panthers scored a total of 573 points to tie with Trinity. Pictured above, Reid Buzby '19 tied for first with 137 points with Trinity's Will Rosenfield. Fellow Panther Jeffrey Giguere came in third with only one more stroke, finishing with 138 points.

Ski Patrol: The Unsung Heroes of the Snow Bowl

HIGHLY-TRAINED AND SUPER CHILL STUDENT SQUAD ROCKS THE SLOPES

By **HEATHER BOEHM**
Sports Editor

Picture this: It's Sunday morning. You snooze your alarm three times at 11:00 before you get the courage to brave the -2-degree winds and make the journey through the snow to find the nearest open dining hall. You take your time, kicking your legs up and preparing for some "Sunday Scaries." This may be the life of an average Middkid. But for a volunteer ski patroller? Quite the opposite.

Ski patrol: the heroes that we didn't know we needed until we had them. They are not only students, but also masters of the mountain. Not simply athletes, but qualified medics. Not just "sendy" (as senior President Kaitlyn Francis coins them), but professional.

The day on the job for a patroller starts with a harsh 7 a.m. breakfast. In the spirit of camaraderie, the goal is to get there as timely as possible in order to make sure that no last-minute stragglers slept through their alarms. The squad then makes their way to the Middlebury Snow Bowl with a prompt 8 a.m. arrival. After slapping on some boots and other gear to protect them from the freezing temperatures, they find out their two to three responsibilities for the next eight hours in the office. Some of these include the coveted top hut duty (sitting pretty at the top of the mountain waiting to jump on any type of accident) and Sheehan duty (skiing to the left side of the mountain by Sheehan lift). Emily Kohutnicki '20 claims that her duty of choice is the "top hut duty" (hot tub top hut). She loves this role because it's where she can "really spend some time with fellow patrollers and get to know both new and old friends."

The process of joining the squad is no easy task; it requires strong mental and physical capabilities. A prospective patroller has to be both a skilled and experienced skier, as well as pass written and oral exams that earn you a role just below that of an EMT, a certification known as Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC).



COURTESY PHOTO

The ski patrol has helped keep skiers at the Snow Bowl safe since the group was founded in 1946.

Current members of patrol teach the class every Sunday for three hours during the fall semester, so if you're not 100% committed, your spot on the Bowl looks pretty bleak. It is as if you are taking a fifth class, which is a huge sacrifice for a goal that is by no means promised, even if you pass the challenging standardized tests. The course even entails a midterm involving practicals, which are scenarios of injuries that are set up by the patrollers which students then must respond to flawlessly. If you thought a midterm was a lot for an extracurricular, then you will be shocked to hear that they even have a final exam given by the National Ski Patrol (NSP), where they must earn at least an 80%.

The journey does not stop here. Next, your ski abilities are put to the test, and the Vermont conditions are anything but a walk in the park. Only students with the highest scores are admitted to the mountain, and from here on physical aptitude is carefully examined — may the best skier win. With the patrollers only having a few slots open, there is no margin for error and your skills must be executed without any blemishes.

So, after reading about the arduous process, why join patrol? Veteran skier Kohutnicki commented that she joined because of the social

aspect and the people she found. "Being an intimidated freshman living in Coffrin with only a handful of others, I wanted to find a way to meet new people and find friends with a common interest — skiing, duh," said Kohutnicki. "Some people are pre-med students who ski [who] wanted to combine academics with pleasure, but I just thought the idea of responding to injured skiers on the mountain could be fun and fulfilling."

Although this process seems as if it would produce a cutthroat and hypercompetitive atmosphere, most who experienced this overwhelming process emerged, with a different perspective. Kohutnicki commented that she did not find the environment to be too competitive. Even though they were competing against each other for six or seven spots, students would study with one another and veteran patrollers jumped at the chance to help with lingering questions. One would think that the ski test would be even more intimidating, being a more athletic contest, but it was more of the same positive and encouraging energy.

Old-timer Francis said that her favorite aspects of ski patrol are the people and the culture. "We all love spending time together on and off the hill, and there is a strong culture

of "sendiness" and a "love of skiing," Francis said. "Ski patrollers have become some of my best friends at Middlebury which makes volunteering as a ski patroller not feel like a job but rather just a blocked-out time chunk to spend with people I love being around."

But it is definitely not all fun and games and the squad knows how to balance fun and professionalism. Francis commented on one of the more dangerous aspects of the job where quick action is key. "It's definitely intense when we get a call about anything head or C-spin related where we would need to backboard, since these types of injuries can be really serious and especially with spinal injuries there isn't room for error on our end," Francis said. "But we do so much training throughout the fall when we teach or take the OEC class and on-hill in the winter that responding becomes almost automated. Having drilled in practice, responding to accidents doesn't feel scary since I definitely have always felt super prepared by all the training we do."

One of the most exciting days for patrollers is their claim to fame on Winter Carnival, when Middlebury hosts multiple schools to race down the Bowl. For some, this is a weekend in which many students use to

enjoy the finer things at Midd, but this is the day in which patrollers must be most active. With rowdy students crawling their way to the top of the Bowl in Converse, the patrollers are only drunk with excitement. Despite being on duty, Francis claims that Winter Carnival is one of her favorite days of the year. "It is so much fun to be on skis and feel part of the skier hype as well as the energy that the silly people bring up from campus," she said. "I really love getting to see everyone who comes up to the Bowl and being able to get right into the roost mosh pit, but then ski down and watch my friends racing from the bottom. It's actually a pretty great day to be in the office, bopping around on skis."

Graduating this spring, Francis has been able to develop her leadership and organization skills while in charge of the ski patrol squad, since all of the group's educational, fundraising, scheduling and social operations are run by the students. "I really appreciated the opportunity to take charge of these different elements and am so grateful to the group for being so willing to volunteer for various jobs," she said. "We were a small group this year which means that the class and fundraising efforts needed all hands on deck, which was stressful at times but in the end I think improved all of our leadership and communication skills."

Community building has been at the heart of Francis' time on ski patrol and one of the highlights of her Middlebury career. "It is pretty rare to be able to post in a GroupMe about a sunrise skin and have more than a dozen people immediately be up for the challenge and early morning," she said.

We saw winter come and go. New waves of fresh-faced patrollers entered the scene as "washed up" seniors take their last runs down the mountain, dressed to the nines in their unmistakable bright blue jackets with their radios weighing them down. These are truly the unsung heroes of the Bowl, protecting the community one run at a time. Now, all we can do is wait for another Vermont winter of "sendiness."



The ski patrol greets skiers unloading at the top of the Snow Bowl.

COURTESY PHOTO



Emily Kohutnicki '20 (left) and Caroline Daley '20 (right) cheer on fellow Panthers during Winter Carnival.

Women's Tennis Concludes Undefeated NESCAC Home Weekend

By **CECELIA SCHEUER**
Senior Writer

It was another big weekend for the No. 3 ranked Middlebury women's tennis team, as they eased past No. 8 Tufts (7-2) on Saturday and No. 9 Williams (7-2) on Sunday at home on the Proctor Tennis Courts.

On Saturday morning, clear skies and 70-degree weather drew an array of spectators to the courts as the team played their first outdoor home match of the season. To kick things off, the Panthers grabbed two out of three points against the Jumbos during doubles play. At the No. 2 spot, the junior duo of Katherine Hughes and Skylar Schossberger blanked Anna Lowy and Nicole

Frankel, after which Christina Puccinelli '19 and Maddi Stow '20 doubled the lead with an 8-2 triumph over Tomo Iwasaki and Patricia Obeid.

Of course, playing outdoors again for the first time came with challenges of its own. For one thing, the Panthers had to ease into the slower-paced ball and longer points that distinguish outdoor play from the fast-paced play of indoor hard courts. Moving forward, sophomore Emily Bian says that "incorporating more slices and lobs to change up the points" will be crucial to adjusting accordingly. The wind also proved to be an obstacle, but nothing that the Panthers couldn't handle.

"It was a little tricky at first with the wind, but I believe we all embraced the challenge," Hughes said,

as the team was ultimately able to persevere through the weather conditions.

In singles play, Schossberger swung past Carolin Garrido 6-0, 6-0 at the No. 4 spot, while Heather Boehm '20 posted a 6-2, 6-2 victory against Iwasaki in the top flight. At the No. 3 spot, Puccinelli edged past Obeid 7-6 (2), 6-4, while Stow secured a 6-1, 6-4 win against Frankel in the fifth spot. Bian sealed the Panthers' victory as she clinched the team's fifth point with a 6-3, 6-0 win against Kiara Rose at the bottom of the singles lineup.

The women's tennis team increased their winning streak to five on Sunday morning against Williams, getting a sweet taste of revenge after falling to them last year

during the season and in the NES-CAC finals. During doubles play, the Panthers once again took two of the three points, as Hughes and Schossberger edged Emily Zheng and Korina Neveux 8-6 at the No. 2 spot. In the top position, the powerhouse duo of Boehm and Ann Martin Skelly '21 posted an 8-4 victory against Leah Bush and Julia Pham.

In singles, the Panthers advanced to a 3-1 lead when Hughes clinched a 6-2, 6-0 win against Chloe Henderson at the No. 2 spot. In the fourth flight, the Ephs closed in with a straight set win to make the score 3-2, to which Middlebury responded by taking the final four singles matches to finish. Puccinelli swept Neveux 6-1, 6-1 in the third spot, while Boehm cruised

past Bush 6-3, 6-2 at the top of the lineup. At the No. 5 spot, Stowe put up quite the fight after dropping the opening set, coming back to win the match 1-6, 6-4, 10-3 against Pham. Bian rounded out the scoring at No. 6 with a 6-4, 6-4 triumph against Maxine Ng to secure the Panthers' 7-2 victory.

"This weekend was a great weekend for MWT," Bain said. "We really showcased our grit, resilience and competitive spirit this weekend. Tufts and Williams are a loud and skillful team, but we came out swinging, executed our strategy and the score took care of itself."

The Panthers will travel to No. 6 Bowdoin next Saturday for a 9:30 a.m. faceoff, before driving to Bates that afternoon for a 3:30 p.m. match.



Michael Borenstein/The Middlebury Campus
Heather Boehm '20, beloved sports editor, crushes it on home courts despite a windy weekend.



Michael Borenstein/The Middlebury Campus
Ann Martin Skelly '21 sprints toward the net with determination.